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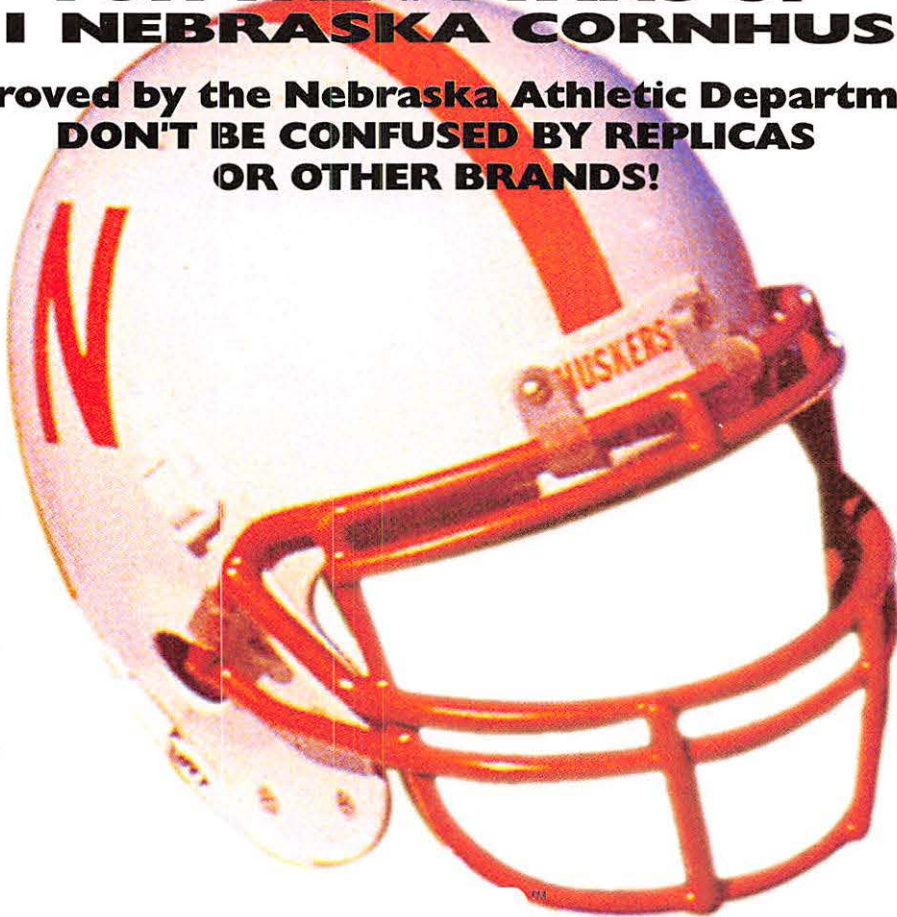


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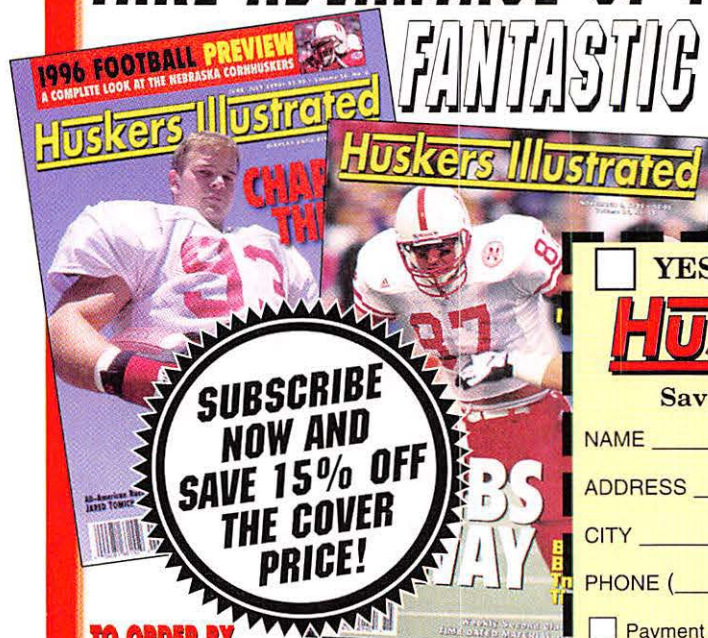
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Last year quarterbacks went after Michael Booker. It won't happen again. They've learned their lessons.

By Mike Babcock

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Women's golf team looks to avoid third near-miss by focussing on mental game.

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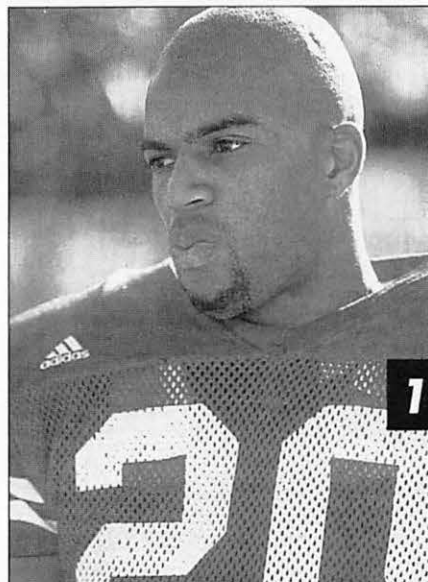
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Before the first serve of the season, the Husker volleyball team lost three key players.

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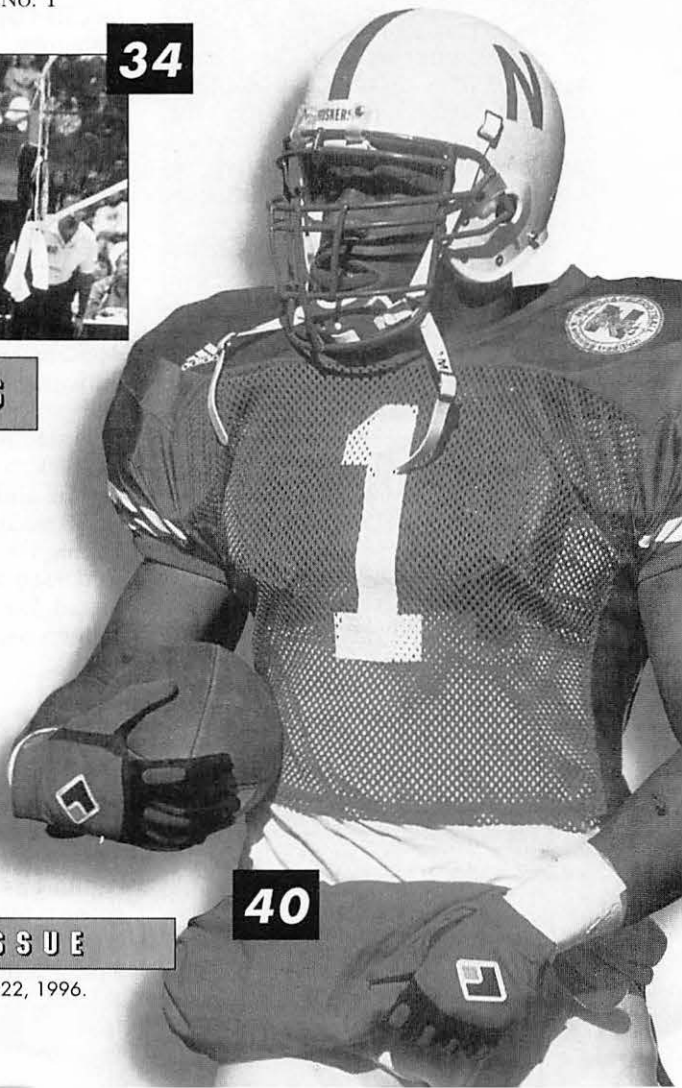
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## NEXT ISSUE

Will be mailed on September 22, 1996.





## fromTheEDITOR

Just over 24 years ago — give or take a few days — Johnny Rodgers was preparing for his senior season and looking to lead Bob Devaney and No. 1-ranked Nebraska to an unprecedented third straight national title.

Days later those dreams fell apart in Los Angeles as the Huskers lost a 20-17 heartbreaker in the season-opener against UCLA. A 23-23 tie against Iowa State and a 17-14 loss to Oklahoma in the 1972 regular season finale were the final nails in the already-measured coffin.

One of the most versatile backs in college football history, Rodgers went on to edge out Oklahoma's Gregg Pruitt to win Nebraska's first Heisman Trophy that year, after racking up 1,250 yards rushing and receiving and 804 yards on punt and kickoff returns. A stellar performance in the Huskers' 40-6 Orange Bowl victory over Notre Dame (he scored four touchdowns and threw for a fifth) cemented his name in Husker history forever.

Now, as this year's Nebraska team attempts to accomplish what the 1972 team couldn't, Rodgers is preparing again.

No, he hasn't come out of retirement and suited up with that memorable No. 20 on his back. But wouldn't that be a sight? From what I hear, he still has a pretty fast set of wheels under him. Instead, he'll be providing insight to *Huskers Illustrated* readers as a columnist.


This issue marks the debut of two new columns, including Rodgers' "The Jet's Retrospective." Each week Rodgers will reflect on his experiences as a player and how he sees this year's team.

In his first installment, Rodgers explains why he believes the Huskers will pull off the "threepeat." Not surprisingly, the main reason has something to do with a guy named Osborne.

In addition to Rodgers, we also welcome former NU linebacker Adrian Fiala, who will break down the team each week in "Adrian's Analysis." Fiala is also providing radio color commentary for Pinnacle Sports, which obtained the rights to broadcast the games this season.

The addition of both Rodgers and Fiala should give you even more insight during this possibly historic season.

Chris Greer, Editor



## LETTERS

As a Husker fan from Oklahoma, I want to thank you for the fine work in *Husker Illustrated*. It is tough being a Cornhusker fan in this state. But the team performance has made that much easier.

My Nebraska flag waves every day in front of my house and my German shepherd, named Nebcorhu, guards the flag from the Okies. Good luck on the season and go for three.

Robert Ryan  
Sallisaw, Okla.

"Great" is an appropriate word for Tom Osborne, and its basis is found in his character, which is revealed by another word — "integrity."

Douglas B. Rasmussen  
Oceanside, N.Y.

Thanks for the great article on California Angels' outfielder (and former Husker) Darin Erstad ("Rapid Riser" Aug. 1996). All too often, kickers and punters never get any publicity. But Erstad's ability as a baseball player has helped him draw the spotlight he so clearly deserves.

Erstad has shown that he was the top pick in the baseball draft for a reason, and that he deserves to stay in the majors for a long time. Here's hoping the Angels dump Garrett Anderson and keep the outfield of Erstad, Jim Edmonds and Tim Salmon together for a long time.

Ho Nguyen  
Los Angeles, Calif.

I was glad to see the NU women's soccer program getting some attention in your magazine ("Underdogs No More" Aug. 1996). Although it will obviously never surpass football in popularity, soccer is getting huge in Nebraska, with strong college programs at NU and at Creighton, and terrific youth

leagues all over the state.

Nebraska coach John Walker has to be proud of his team's (#18) ranking, but he undoubtedly realizes that there is a long way for his team to go before they reach the elite status of teams like North Carolina, Portland, UConn and Stanford. But he certainly has them on the right track.

Malik Thurman  
Durham, N.C.

Husker fans have been spoiled. Few programs have had a football head coach of great ability and great character, but there may be no other school in the country that can boast two coaches of the ilk of Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne.

Osborne is a gem to be treasured by Nebraskans and NU fans everywhere.

Osborne recruits great players, coaches them into great performances, and quietly wins games with a demeanor of class rarely seen in today's sports world.

For those who don't realize how lucky Nebraska is to have Osborne, consider the other so-called "great" coaches around the country. Listen to Lou Holtz snivel and you'd think Notre Dame has no chance of ever beating any team in the country. Joe Paterno whines to the point that you can't listen to him. Steve Spurrier is the most arrogant coach in the country (although I doubt he'd do a lot of woofing around Nebraska fans).

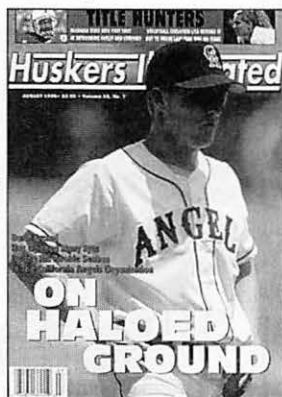
Gregg Cristopher  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

As a former competitive swimmer, I was glad to see your shot of Penny Heyns, the former Husker swimmer who won two gold medals at the Atlanta Olympics for South Africa. Heyns' performance solidified her position as the top breast-stroker in the world, and hopefully the extra visibility will allow NU coach Cal Bentz to continue recruiting the top swimmers in the world.

Markus Gustafsson  
Bangor, Maine

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For those with electronic mail abilities, [huskersedit@xcscx.com](mailto:huskersedit@xcscx.com).





## ADRIAN'S ANALYSIS

# Challenging The Throne

*Arizona State, Kansas State and Colorado should be the biggest obstacles in the Huskers' title path*

**A**lmost as heated as the competition on the playing field this fall are the confrontational debates held around the country by people trying to predict how their favorite teams will do in the upcoming college football season.

Nebraska fans tend to take a slightly different approach to pre-season prognostications. Fans of other schools hope that their team will post a winning record, or maybe even go to a bowl game at the end of the season. But in Nebraska, expectations are a little loftier. The Husker faithful expect nothing less than an undefeated season ending in a national championship. Less than 10 victories in a season is considered an off-year. A bowl game appearance other than the national championship game or a final ranking below the top two spots in the polls is cause for local paramedics to set up below bridges and tall buildings.

How are the Huskers going to do this year? Is Colorado really that good? What about Arizona State and Kansas State? Can Nebraska win it all again?

These are all questions asked by the fans and critics of the Cornhuskers.

The Huskers' quest for their third consecutive national championship is laden with opponents at different stages in their development — some are powerful, others pushovers. The Cornhusker schedule should offer up the standard 60-point NU victories along the way, but Nebraska likely will face only three real tests during the regular season: Arizona State, Kansas State and Colorado.

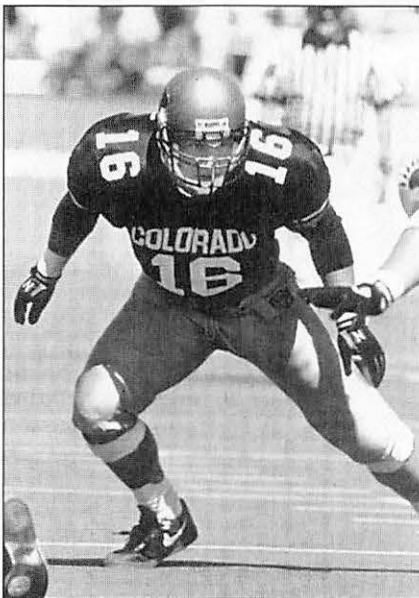
Twenty-one starters return for the Sun Devils, including 38 of the top 44, most notably two-time All-Pac 10 quarterback Jake Plummer, considered by many to be one of the top five quarterbacks in the country. He completed 58 percent of his passes

last year and is considered a strong quarterback prospect for next year's NFL draft. The Sun Devils' offensive line is solid, led by All-America candidate Juan Roque at tackle.

The ASU defense — the one that allowed 77 points to the Huskers a year ago — is sound at all positions, especially linebacker. Whether the Sun Devils will be able to slow the NU running game remains to be seen.

Tom Osborne says that the majority of teams improve the most between the first and second games on their schedule, and Nebraska will arrive at Arizona State — picked by many to emerge as the 1996 Pac-10 champion — after a bye week. This game should offer further evidence

*University of Colorado*



**A Colorado win would not only halt the Huskers' title hopes, but also give linebacker Matt Russell and his senior teammates their first win against Nebraska.**

of the difference between the talent level on the top teams in the country and those teams that are "pretty good".

Kansas State is coming off a 10-2 season which ended with a 54-21 Holiday Bowl win over Colorado State and with the Wildcats ranked sixth in the nation. All-American

defensive back Chris Canty will lead the Cats' defense, which lost some key performers from last year's team. The Wildcats posted three shutouts a year ago and boasted the top-rated defense in the nation.

Kansas State's offensive line could be the best in school history, and quarterback Brian Kavanagh, a fifth-year senior, will test that theory by going to the air frequently this season.

The Buffaloes of Colorado will cap the regular season with their annual showdown against the Huskers, held this year in Lincoln on Nov. 29. The game will be played the day after Thanksgiving — a spot once reserved for the annual NU-Oklahoma clash — so that the national television audience can once again see two of the best teams in the conference and the country.

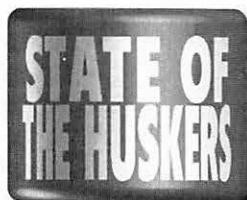
Colorado will have quarterbacks Koy Detmer and John Hessler ready. Detmer is coming off knee surgery but is projected as the starter. Hessler is coming off a year during which he set 12 school offensive records, and the Buffs return 16 starters from a year ago, including nine on offense. Linebacker Matt Russell, who finished fourth in Butkus Award voting last year, will anchor a solid, strong and very aggressive Colorado defense.

The Buffaloes have the added incentive of the fact that no player on the roster has ever played on a CU team that has beaten Nebraska.

Time will tell whether the Huskers can win a third consecutive national championship. If the Big Red can overcome the Sun Devils, Wildcats and Buffaloes, Nebraska likely will enter the Big 12 Championship game with an undefeated record. With good health and a little luck, the Huskers might well have an undefeated record as they head to New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl in January. ■

Adrian Fiala lettered on Bob Devaney-coached Nebraska football teams in 1967, 1968 and 1969 as a linebacker. He is now the color commentator for the Cornhusker radio network.





# Only In Nebraska

*Years ago, Photo Day attracted mainly players' families and some fans. It's turned into an event which had over 7,000 on hand this year*

**S**cott Frost and Ahman Green sat beside each other at a table in the southeast corner of Memorial Stadium and signed autographs at the Nebraska football team's annual Photo Day.

The line of fans waiting for their signatures was only slightly shorter than the one in front of the table at the back of the south end zone where Tom Osborne sat. The line of those wanting an autograph from the coach of the two-time defending national champions stretched beyond the north 20-yard line.

Larry Frost stood beneath the South Stadium stands and watched as his son signed a variety of things, including college football magazines, Nebraska media guides, posters and T-shirts.

The Photo Day activities attracted a crowd estimated at more than 7,000.

"When I was at Nebraska, we'd sign a few autographs and talk to the other players' parents," said the elder Frost, who lettered as a wingback on Bob Devaney's teams in 1967, 1968 and 1969. "Football has gotten so big here, and this has grown with it."

That was even more apparent when he and his wife Carol, who coached the NU women's track and field and cross country teams in the late 1970s, came from Wood River for Nebraska's Red-White intrasquad game two springs ago, arriving in Lincoln a half-hour before kickoff.

They were surprised by the traffic, which was comparable to that of a game day. They were even more surprised that a glorified football scrimmage in April would attract an audience of 40,000. "Scott said it was the largest college crowd he'd ever

played in front of," Frost said.

Scott Frost had transferred to Nebraska a couple of months earlier, after spending two seasons at Stanford, where he played quarterback and defensive back for Cardinal head coach Bill Walsh. Had it not been for Walsh, Scott almost certainly would have become a Cornhusker in the first place, his father said. But the chance

to play quarterback for Walsh, whose offense helped the San Francisco 49ers become Super Bowl champions during his tenure as coach in the NFL, attracted Scott to Palo Alto, Calif.

When Walsh decided to leave Stanford, Scott did, too. The transfer

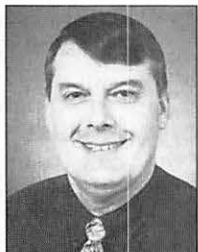
pleased his parents. "We just want Scott to be happy, and he's happy now," Larry Frost said. "He wasn't happy before."

Larry Frost is the head football coach at Wood River High School. Scott is one of three of his former players on Nebraska's roster this fall. Joe Horst is a junior offensive guard. Chad Wiles is a true freshman quarterback. Both came as walk-ons. "We're kind of proud of that," Frost said.

He came to Nebraska from Malcolm, a small community near Lincoln. Like so many high school football players in the state, then as now, his dream was to play football for the Cornhuskers. "When I was little, I listened (to games) on the radio or watched in the knothole section," he said.

He grew up idolizing players such as Willie Greenlaw, Larry Naviaux and Harry Tolly. "All I wanted to do, from the time I was old enough to understand until I finally got the chance, was play at Nebraska," said Larry Frost. "All (Nebraska) kids want to. The walk-on program is evidence of that."

"The only sad part is, there are so many kids who would like to walk



By  
**MIKE  
BABCOCK**



John Waller

**Scott Frost played before his largest audience when over 40,000 showed up for the Red-White scrimmage.**

Bob Berry





on here and don't have a chance. I've talked to Coach (Tom) Osborne. He feels bad, too. He'd like to be able to let every Nebraska kid walk on who wanted to. It would be great for the state. But, of course, that's not possible."

Scott Frost joins just a handful of Nebraskans who have been Osborne's regular quarterback. Ord's Jeff Quinn started part of the 1979 season and all of the 1980 season. Lincoln's Craig Sundberg started the first five games in 1984 before giving way to Scottsbluff's Travis Turner. Sundberg regained the starting job for the Sugar Bowl game and was chosen as the Most Valuable Player in a 28-10 victory against LSU. Fremont's Gerry Gdowski had an extraordinary senior season, passing for 1,326 yards and 19 touchdowns (with only two interceptions) and rushing for 925 yards and 13 touchdowns, in 1989.

The Cornhuskers' offensive roster is dominated this season by players who grew up in Nebraska. With everyone healthy, eight other starters besides Frost are Nebraskans. Green, the I-back, is from Omaha. Guard Jon Zatechka and tackles Eric Anderson and Adam Treu are from Lincoln. Guard Chris Dishman and split end Brendan Holbein are from Cozad. Fullback Brian Schuster is from Fullerton. Tight end Tim Carpenter is from Columbus.

Defensive starters who hail from Nebraska include middle linebacker Jon Hesse and free safety Eric Stokes from Lincoln and tackle Jeff Ogard from St. Paul. In addition, punter Jesse Kosch is from Columbus.

The Cornhusker media guide lists 116 in-state players, representing 56 Nebraska communities, as small as Deweese — which has "about 50 people, a church and a bar," said strongside linebacker Brian Shaw, a redshirted freshman walk-on from Sandy Creek High — and as large as Omaha.

In-state players are a fundamental element of Nebraska's remarkable success, according to Larry Frost. "I've always believed, and always will believe, that there's a little extra spark," he said.

Frost watched as his son tirelessly signed autographs for wide-eyed children, as well as for adults, some of whom seemed uncomfortable to the point of sheepishness.

Frost smiled. "It's funny," he said. "The only things that change are the names." ■

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# Same Story, Different Ending

*Unlike the last time Nebraska went for three straight, this year's team will put "Three In The Book For Brook"*

**O**n Sept. 9, 1972, in Los Angeles, I experienced my first loss in varsity football at the University of Nebraska. We were ranked No. 1 in all the polls. We were coming off a great 38-6 Orange Bowl game victory over second-ranked Alabama the previous New Year's night. We had defeated Oklahoma in "the Game of the Century" 35-31 the previous season. And then we lost a game.

**By  
JOHNNY  
RODGERS**



Efren Herrera kicked a 30-yard field goal with only 22 seconds left as UCLA beat us 20-17 in our 1972 season-opener. We had four fumbles and two interceptions in the second half. It wasn't that we didn't believe we could beat UCLA. We just didn't believe we could three-peat.

The biggest factor, I think, was that coach Bob Devaney had already decided to retire at the end of the season. He was already the winningest coach in the nation; we had back-to-back national championships, a feat that only a few schools in history had ever accomplished. And the athletic director's job was already his. Tom Osborne, because of his offensive genius, had been picked to be the next head coach.

Well, 24 years later, history is repeating itself. We're back in the saddle again. Osborne knows that he has a chance to do what no other coach in the modern era of college football has done — three-peat.

If Osborne had been the head coach in 1972, we would have three-peated then.

Until the last two seasons, Coach Osborne has stood in the shadow of Devaney, even though he has won at least nine games each season and

always has gone to a bowl game. The world is just starting to realize what I've known for 25 years. Not only is Osborne a good and spiritual man, he is also a brilliant coach. He creates offenses, directs defenses like a sergeant and motivates his players by preparing them to meet any scenario. When Osborne called my play, we knew what we could do, and I was confident I could do it. I learned a passion for winning from Osborne, who is like no other man I've ever known. He would stay up day and night, fast and pray, condition his body and mind, all in the name of

win one more for "the Duke."

More importantly, however, there was Rex Lowe. Rex was from Milwaukee. He was a high school All-American wide receiver. He was 6-foot-2 and 190 pounds. He could really run and catch the ball. When I came up to the varsity, he was the man to beat in my eyes. I had a lot of respect for Rex, and so did everyone else. The word "character" truly applied to Rex Lowe.

After a long fight with cancer, Rex

**No longer in Devaney's shadow, Osborne will take the Nebraska legacy one step further with a third straight national title.**



winning for God.

I know Coach Osborne believes he can win for the third year in a row. He may shock the world and win four. This year's players just need to pump up the volume and take their performances to another level, the way we did in the 1973 Orange Bowl game against Notre Dame. It was Devaney's last game as head coach, and we all wanted to

died in January, 1973, after the Orange Bowl. The team decided that we would win the game for Coach Devaney, but we would dedicate the victory to Rex. The best thing we did that year was dedicate the Orange Bowl game to Rex because after we made that decision, our practices had meaning, more meaning than ever before. We practiced harder, concentrated better and focused seri-



ously on the task at hand. We had fun, and we knew we had to win.

Watching Rex Lowe waste away from 190 pounds to 90 pounds made us appreciate our abilities and our blessings. When the Orange Bowl game began, we were pumped and ready for war. We were prepared. Even though a flu bug had caught some of us, it didn't make a difference. I remember needing oxygen every few minutes. I remember standing in the end zone, waiting for a kickoff with vomit running out of my nose and mouth, and still hoping I'd get the ball one more time. I didn't want to take any chances.

I left the game right after that in the second half, partly because we were ahead by a lot and partly because I was sick. My teammates wanted me to go for records, I just wanted to win for Rex.

After the 40-6 victory, I was named the game's MVP and was presented the game ball. I presented the ball to Rex Lowe, and made a short speech. He began to cry, and we all cried together with joy and happiness. Coach Devaney, all the seniors and Rex went out as champions.

When I think of Rex and our third time around, it reminds me of Brook Berringer, another young man of great character. He once said that the death of his father ultimately made him stronger. After going through that tragedy, Brook said he felt prepared for any challenge.

This year's players and coaches can become stronger and more focused by dedicating this season to Brook and his family. It will bring new meaning to the game for the seniors. Maybe they can win a third national championship for Coach Osborne and dedicate it to Brook Berringer.

Osborne believes they can do it. I believe they will do it. What do you believe?

If you want to help, when you see the players, tell them they can do it. Tell them that things come to you as you believe they will. If you believe you can do something, you probably will.

Let's put "Three in the Book for Brook."

Johnny "The Jet" Rodgers was Nebraska's first Heisman Trophy winner in 1972. A key player on the Cornhuskers' national championship teams in 1970 and 1971, Rodgers has returned to the university and is working to complete a degree in communications.

# Huskers

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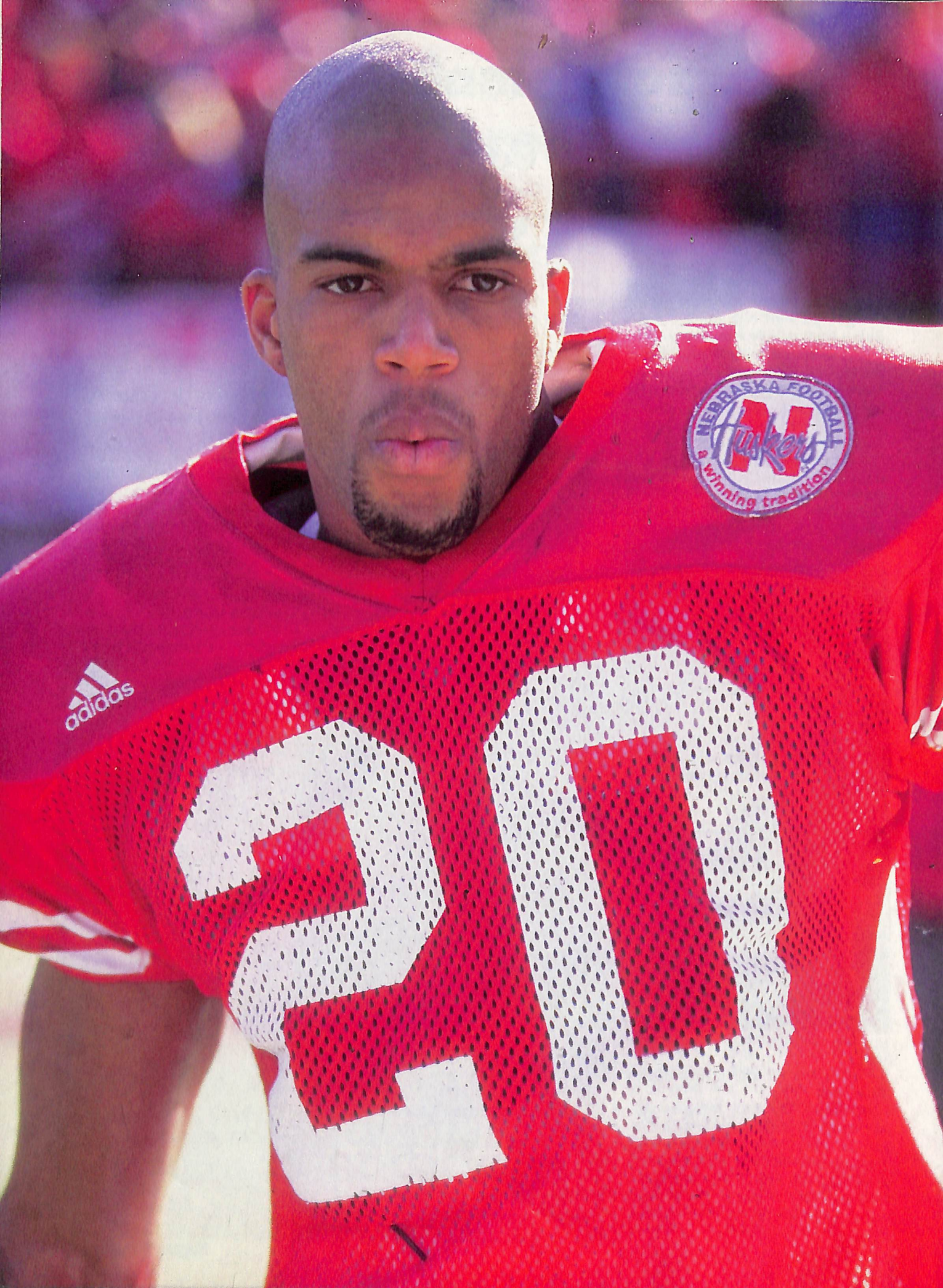
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20



**M**ichael Booker has yet to watch Nebraska's national championship-clinching 62-24 victory against Florida in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl game from the opening kickoff to the final gun.

In the weeks immediately following the game, the Nebraska cornerback sometimes shut off videotaped replays of the CBS telecast before the first half ended. He didn't even get to watch his 42-yard interception return for a touchdown. That play came with 2:40 left before the intermission, and with it (and the ensuing extra point), Nebraska's lead was increased to 32-10, and any hopes Florida had of coming back were effectively eliminated.

"People constantly remind me about it," said Booker, who was chosen as the game's Outstanding Defensive Player. "But I've only watched part of it. I still haven't seen the whole game."

Booker isn't tied up in the past. After celebrating last season's national championship for a couple of weeks, Booker said he turned his attention to preparation for the 1996 season, in part because he doesn't need the aggravation.

"I've started out watching it. But what the announcers said about me still makes me mad," the Cornhuskers' senior cornerback said recently.

Booker had been a starter since the third game of the season and thought he deserved more respect than he was given by CBS announcers Terry Donahue and Jim Nantz, who suggested that even though Booker had led the Huskers in interceptions for the year, Florida could beat him.

Those words summed up the attitude that so irritated Booker.

Seconds earlier, as Danny Wuerffel scrambled to avoid being sacked, Nantz suggested the Florida quarterback might be trying to find wide receiver Chris Doering, who had caught four passes for 56 yards on the game's first series.

He didn't. Wuerffel threw a pass that was intended for Gators receiver Ike Hilliard, but instead ended up in the hands of Booker. Nantz and Donahue might or might not have been questioning Booker's ability, but it certainly appeared the Gators were.

"From what we've heard, Florida thought they could go after him (Booker)," Nebraska defensive backs coach George Darlington said. "He heard that and used it as motivation, I think."

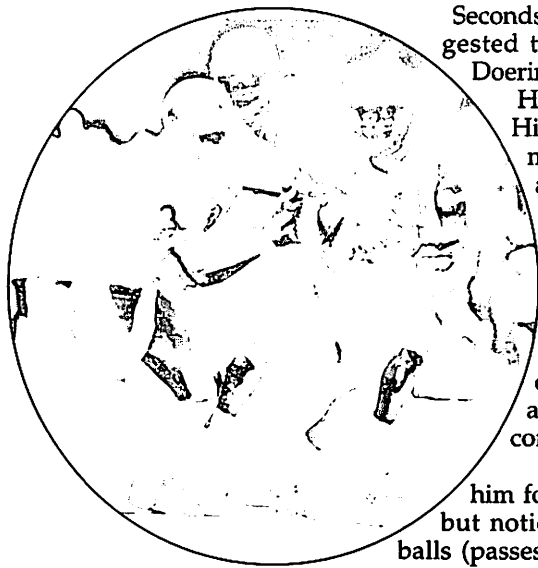
By that point, Booker was accustomed to being picked on by opposing offenses. Quarterbacks went after him throughout the season, not so much because he lacked ability, but rather because he lacked collegiate experience. He had played sparingly in only eight games at Nebraska as a back-up before the 1995 season. Tyrone Williams, who started at right cornerback "was all-world," said Booker. "I was the little young buck."

Opposing teams wouldn't let him forget that. "You couldn't help but notice it, when three of the first balls (passes) come at you and the other cornerback isn't even tired," he said.

Booker was recruited from Oceanside, Calif., where he excelled in football and basketball at El Camino High School. He also played running back, but Nebraska's interest in him was as a defensive back. Booker said his interest also remained

Last year  
quarterbacks  
went after  
Michael Booker.  
It won't happen  
again.  
They've learned  
their lessons.

**WHY IS  
EVERYONE  
ALWAYS PICKING  
ON ME?**





on the defensive side of the ball, if for no other reason than "I really don't want people hitting me."

He was forced to sit out his first year at Nebraska because he didn't meet the NCAA's freshman academic eligibility requirements. He couldn't even practice, which meant the homesickness he experienced was intensified.

The negative aspects of a year on the sideline are obvious.

"They lose the reps (repetitions) in practice," Darlington said. "But sometimes sitting out a year can be really helpful, because they have to reflect an awful lot and ask themselves, 'Do I really want to be here?' All in all, it's not as much of a negative as you might think."

Booker reflected on his situation. He met regularly with Darlington, to discuss his academic progress, not football. His homesickness continued, and he frequently thought about going home. "It got to that point a lot," he said.

He stuck it out, however, only to find himself redshirted to start his sophomore year. The plan was for him to spend the fall becoming accustomed to Nebraska's defensive system, after which he would have an opportunity to establish himself



Bob Berry

during spring practice and have three seasons of eligibility remaining with the Huskers.

Five games into the 1994 season, however, Osborne was forced to put Booker on the Huskers' active roster in order to shore up the secondary, which had been depleted by injuries. He spent the remainder of the first national championship season backing up Williams and Leslie Dennis at the cornerback spots.

Booker came out of spring prac-

**Michael Booker made Florida pay for constantly throwing his way in the Fiesta Bowl.**

tice in 1995 as the third left cornerback on the Nebraska depth chart, behind Eric Stokes and Dennis. Stokes started the first two games before being moved back to free safety. Dennis, who was bothered by tendinitis in both knees throughout the season, was moved to the right side, where he backed up Williams,

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giving Booker the opportunity to start, which he did for the rest of the season.

Booker wasted no time in proving he could handle the job. In his first game as a starter, against Arizona State, he made two tackles, intercepted a pass and broke up another to earn the Cornhuskers' nomination for Big Eight Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors. He also intercepted passes against Kansas State and Oklahoma to tie linebacker Terrell Farley for the regular-season team lead.

Booker was regularly tested. "I think people picked on me because I was new," he said.

That wasn't the only reason so many passes came his way, however. "The position he played, left cornerback, lends itself to that," said Darlington. "Most teams are (led by) right-handed (quarterbacks), so they'll go to the left, whether it's Deion Sanders or Joe Stumblebum out there. Part of it was the position."

At 6-foot-2 and 205 pounds, Booker is big for a cornerback. "Not many cornerbacks in the NFL have his size," Darlington said. "That's a positive as long as the quickness is there. Some pro teams will look at him to play inside (safety), I'm sure."

Booker has the necessary speed and quickness to play cornerback. He also has the right disposition or mindset, a quality that is at least as important as the athletic ability.

"In our style of defense, we ask a lot of the cornerbacks," Darlington said. "They don't get any help in a lot of coverages, except from the pass rush. So any time they make an error, it's a real problem. It can end up in six points."

Booker is philosophical about the isolation inherent in his position.

"Everything isn't going to go your way. You have to understand that," he said. "During practice in high school, when someone caught a ball on me, it hurt. But in high school, there weren't a lot of people catching passes on me."

His resilience was tested last season, even after he became a starter. One day in particular, senior Jacques Allen, a reserve wingback, pushed him to the limit during a practice. Allen "just murdered our secondary in practice" that day, Darlington said.

After Florida's first offensive series in the Fiesta Bowl game (which resulted in a field goal),

CBS's Nantz said Nebraska's defensive backs were "unable to match up with Chris Doering."

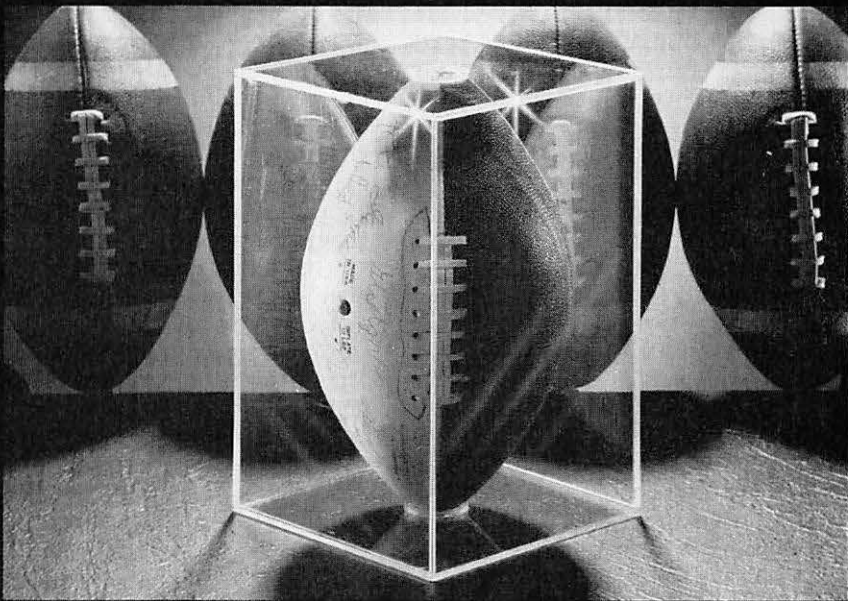
A few minutes later, during the Gators' second possession, Donahue noted: "Right now, the Nebraska (defensive) backs are having a hard time matching up against the Florida speed."

As Nebraska's offense rolled up yards and points on the beleaguered Gator defense, Florida essentially abandoned the running game, going to the air almost exclusively in an effort to play catch-up. Booker and his cohorts in the Husker secondary were being tested on nearly every

play, and before long, Booker was racing into the end zone with his interception that gave Nebraska more than a three-touchdown lead, 32-10.

Nebraska's skeptics will suggest that on offense and defense, the Huskers' strength comes in the running game, as the offense rolls up huge numbers on the ground and the Husker defense stuffs the run until the opposition is forced to go to the passing game. But as Booker and the rest of the Big Red backfield continues to improve, opposing offenses just might run out of choices altogether. ■

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# SCOUTING



**By Mark Derowitsch**

**B**ruce Snyder has molded the Arizona State football program to his liking since he arrived in Tempe, Ariz., four years ago. Finally, as the Snyder era begins its fifth year, the coach expects to start seeing the benefits of his labor.

During the previous four years, Snyder tore the Sun Devils down and molded them into his team. Arizona State took some lumps along the way — especially during the 1994 season, when the Sun Devils finished 3-8 — and has yet to appear in a bowl game under Snyder.

The Sun Devils won four of their last five games and should build on that this season. Snyder said his team is ready to turn the corner.

"You have to build a foundation to have a successful program," Snyder said. "The wins are the last thing to come."

A win against two-time defending national champion Nebraska might be too much for the Sun Devils to take even in light of all the squad's accomplishments at the end of last season. Arizona State takes on the Huskers on Sept. 21 on Frank Kush Field in Sun Devil Stadium, the site of Nebraska's demolition of Florida in the Fiesta Bowl last season to wrap up its second consecutive national title.

**Jake Plummer, an All-Pac-10 Conference selection in 1995, threw for 2,222 yards and 17 touchdowns last year.**

For starters, the Sun Devils will have to figure out a way to defend the Huskers a little better than they did a year ago, when Nebraska rolled to a 77-28 victory in Lincoln. Granted, the Sun Devils won't have to worry about ex-Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier and I-back Lawrence Phillips, who are now playing professional football in the Canadian and National Football Leagues, respectively.

That alone should make Arizona State's job easier.

However, the Sun Devils had trouble stopping anyone last year. They held just one of their 11 opponents to less than 20 points.

Arizona State returns 10 starters



## PRESS PICKS

### • Mike Babcock, Huskers Illustrated

If you believe in historical precedent, Nebraska might have some problems at Sun Devil Stadium. The last time the Cornhuskers played Arizona State there, they struggled mightily before winning, 18-9. On the other hand, the last time the Cornhuskers played at Sun Devil Stadium, home of the Fiesta Bowl ... well, you know what happened.

So which historical precedent will apply?

Also, you have to take into account the fact that Arizona State coach Bruce Snyder has been pointing to this game since last September, because of his misperception that Nebraska was trying to embarrass ASU by running up the score. What's a revenge motive worth?

**Nebraska 37, Arizona State 13.**

### • Todd Henrichs, Grand Island (Neb.) Independent

Going against the Black Shirts, Arizona State can't keep pace.

**Nebraska 42, Arizona State 21.**

### • Brian Rosenthal, York (Neb.) News-Times

The Sun Devil Stadium crowd won't be as receptive toward the Huskers as it was in January, when Nebraska took home the national championship there in front of some 40,000 Husker fans.

**Nebraska 35, Arizona State 17.**

### • Doug Looney, college football free-lance writer

This is going to be one of the best games of the year. ASU has a real chance to win.

**Nebraska 14, Arizona State 13.**

### • Bob Eger, Arizona Republic/Phoenix Gazette

A much-improved Sun Devil defense makes this game different than last year's.

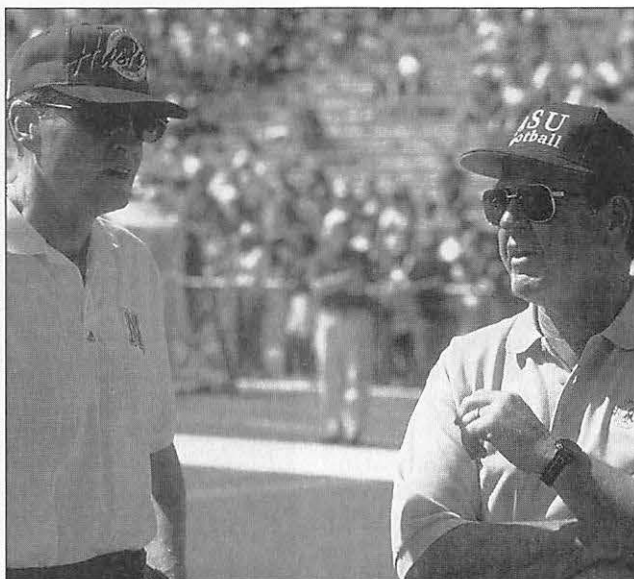
**Nebraska 35, Arizona State 21.**

Bob Berry



on defense, including inside linebacker Scott Von der Ahe and outside linebacker Derek Smith. Von der Ahe recorded 92 tackles, one sack and one interception during his first season at Arizona State. Smith was in on 33 stops in his initial season at ASU.

The lone starter Snyder must replace is linebacker Justin Dragoo, who started 10 games as a senior in 1995. Junior Pat Tillman (5-foot-11, 200 pounds) will move into the starting lineup this fall. Junior college transfer Derrick Rodgers, who enrolled in ASU last January and went through spring practice with the Sun Devils, will provide immediate depth at line-



Bob Berry

### Osborne and Snyder parted last year on less-than-friendly terms.

The pressure won't be on the Sun Devils every week, though. That's because Arizona State has an offense that can score plenty of points.

Led by quarterback Jake Plummer and left tackle Juan Roque, the Sun Devils return all 11 starters from a team that averaged nearly 400 yards of total offense and 28 points per game a year ago.

Plummer did it all a year ago, throwing for 2,222 yards and 17 touchdowns, earning Snyder's respect in the process.

"Jake deserves all of the recognition that he may receive," Snyder said. "He is one of the best young players I have ever been around. If I were starting a team from scratch, he would be my first pick."

Plummer has plenty of weapons with which to work this year, including wide receiver Keith Poole and tailback Michael Martin.

Poole was one of the top receivers in the Pac-10 Conference last season when he caught 55 passes for 1,036 yards and seven touchdowns. At the other receiver spot is Isaiah Mustafa, who caught 18 passes for 233 yards. Tight end Steve Bush is also a solid threat as a receiver. He's coming off a 26-catch season as a junior.

Martin rushed for 566 yards on 138 attempts and scored five touchdowns. His backup, Terry Battle, gained 427 yards as a reserve in 1995. Jeff Paulk will start at flyback, a position similar to a fullback.

Up front, the Sun Devils are big and experienced, and they are led by Roque, a second-team All-America selection a year ago. Roque is 6-8 and 318 pounds, and certainly will battle for the Outland Trophy and the Lombardi Award this season. Grey Ruegamer (6-5, 287) moves to right tackle this fall after starting four games at center a year ago.

Junior Glen Gable (6-5, 295) and Pat Thompson (6-2, 336) likely will get the nod at the two guard spots. Kirk Robertson (6-5, 305) is the starting center.

ASU's schedule is a favorable one – the Nebraska game notwithstanding – with its first five games at home, including games against North Texas and Boise State. ■

## NEBRASKA VS. ARIZONA STATE TWO-DEEPS

### HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Sr
	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	So
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6	300	Sr
	73	Fred Pollack	6-4	305	Jr
LG	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Sr
	62	Matt Vrzal	6-1	300	Sr
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Jr
	59	Josh Heskey	6-3	280	Jr
RG	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	290	Jr
	62	Matt Hoskinson	6-1	280	Jr
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	295	Sr
TE	90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Jr
	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	250	So
QB	7	Scott Frost	6-3	215	Jr
	11	Matt Turman	5-11	185	Sr
FB	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Sr
	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	230	So
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	So
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	210	Sr
WB	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	205	Sr
	33	Sean Wieting	5-9	180	Jr
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	200	Sr

### SUN DEVIL DEFENSE

LE	94	Brent Burnstein	6-8	278	Sr
	55	Dave Baumgartner	6-3	240	Sr
LT	99	Shawn Swayda	6-5	276	Sr
	92	Jeremy Staat	6-5	273	Jr
RT	98	Vince Amey	6-3	281	Jr
	97	Albrey Battle	6-3	285	So
RE	59	Derrick Rodgers	6-2	222	Jr
	58	Derrick Ford	6-1	237	So
OLB	36	Derek Smith	6-2	235	Sr
	30	Larry Johnson	6-1	232	So
MLB	50	Scott Von der Ahe	6-0	245	Sr
	53	Ron McCook	6-2	233	Sr
OLB	42	Pat Tillman	5-11	204	Jr
	37	Paul Reynolds	6-1	220	Jr
LC	32	Marcus Soward	5-11	179	Sr
	23	Courtney Jackson	6-0	182	Fr
RC	10	Jason Simmons	5-10	184	Jr
	12	Lamont Morgan	6-0	194	So
SS	39	Damien Richardson	6-2	207	Jr
	22	Raenaured Turpin	6-2	203	Sr
FS	13	Mitchell Freedman	6-0	196	So
	9	Thomas Simmons	5-11	181	Jr
P	17	Lance Anderson	6-1	223	Sr

### SUN DEVIL OFFENSE

WR	83	Lenzie Jackson	6-0	184	So
	81	Kenny Mitchell	6-3	200	So
LT	74	Juan Roque	6-8	313	Sr
	79	Troy Davis	6-5	252	So
LG	56	Kyle Murphy	6-4	300	Jr
	76	Mike Barnes	6-2	264	So
C	65	Kirk Robertson	6-5	284	Sr
	64	Randy Leaphart	6-3	278	So
RG	70	Glen Gable	6-5	297	Jr
	67	Pat Thompson	6-2	308	So
RT	51	Grey Ruegamer	6-5	270	So
	79	Troy Davis	6-5	252	So
WR	3	Keith Poole	6-2	193	Sr
	24	Ricky Boyer	5-8	153	So
TE	82	Steve Bush	6-3	256	Sr
	88	Devin Kendall	6-2	246	Sr
QB	16	Jake Plummer	6-2	192	Sr
	11	Steve Campbell	6-8	229	So
FB	44	Jeff Paulk	6-1	245	So
	49	Mike Morales	5-11	220	Sr
TB	29	Michael Martin	6-1	215	Jr
	8	Terry Battle	5-11	194	Jr
PK	41	Robert Nycz	5-11	189	Jr

### HUSKER DEFENSE

LRE	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	260	Sr
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	So
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	300	Sr
	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3	295	So
DT	95	Jason Peter	6-4	285	Jr
	74	Scott Saltsman	6-2	270	Sr
RRE	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	Jr
	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	250	So
SLB	28	Jamel Williams	6-2	205	Sr
	46	Brian Shaw	5-10	215	Fr
MLB	44	Jon Hesse	6-4	250	Sr
	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	225	So
WLB	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Sr
	1	Eric Johnson	6-0	205	So
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	205	Sr
	12	Mike Fullman	5-7	170	Sr
RC	22	Ralph Brown	5-11	180	Fr
	26	Jerome Peterson	5-7	185	Fr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Sr
	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	195	Jr
FS	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	185	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	Jr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	185	Jr

Depth charts were compiled Sept. 8, 1996 and may change before game time. # = duplicate number \* = injured, but probable for game



# Black Shirts Dominate In 55-14 Win

**N**ebraska's defense is being held to a lofty standard this season, no doubt about that. The consensus of opinion is that, it will be the best in Tom Osborne's 24 seasons as head coach.

The opinion of those directly involved is slightly different, according to Jon Hesse.

"All we want to do is be the best we can be," the senior middle linebacker said after the Cornhuskers began their quest for an unprecedented third consecutive national championship with a 55-14 victory against Michigan State at Memorial Stadium. "I don't think we'll ever be happy."

By **MIKE BABCOCK**

That should have been apparent considering what had just happened. If ever a defense had a right to be happy, it was Nebraska's.

The Black Shirts' performance was extraordinary. They scored two touchdowns on pass interceptions and set up two others, with a blocked punt and another interception.

"Obviously, the biggest story of the game was defensive scoring," coach Tom Osborne said.

That and the kicking game, which was probably worth three touchdowns, he said.

On a day when the Cornhusker offense seemed sluggish, the defense definitely did not. Senior

rover Mike Minter set up the game's first touchdown with an interception and 3-yard return to the Michigan State 22, and he scored the third touchdown on an 84-yard interception return.

Mike Fullman scored Nebraska's second touchdown on a 62-yard punt return.

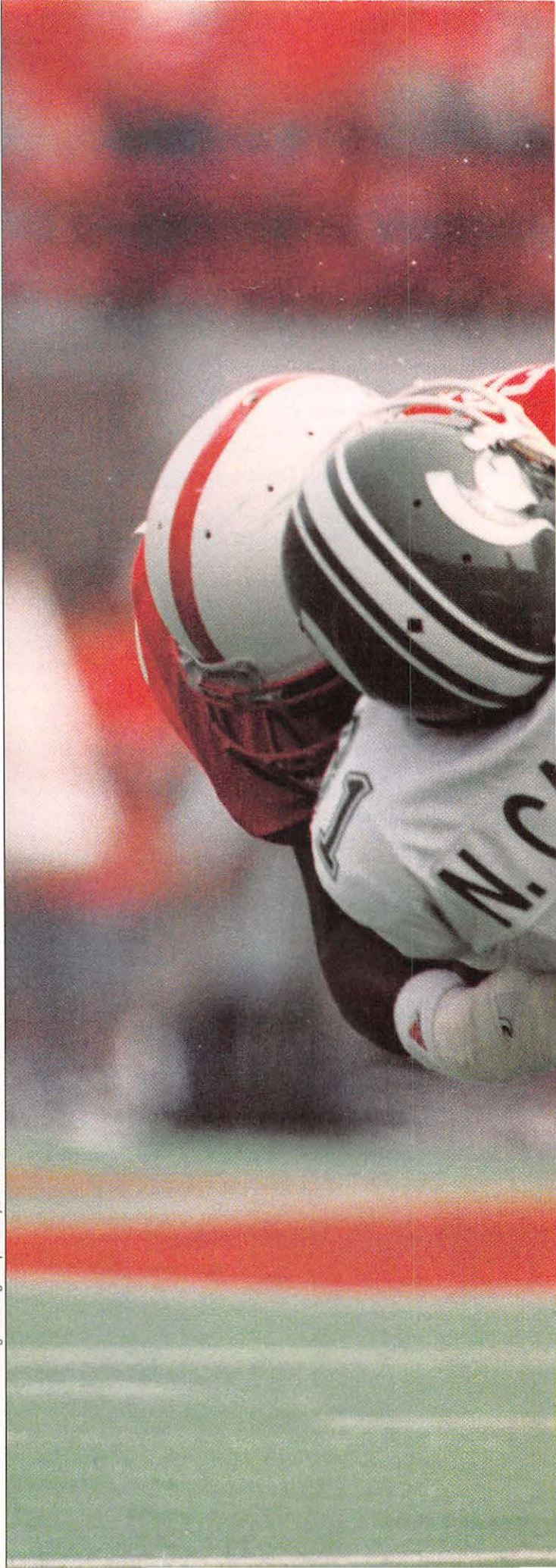
Eric Warfield, Julius Jackson and Brian Shaw joined forces to set up the Cornhuskers' fourth touchdown. Warfield blocked a punt. Jackson tackled a Michigan State player who scooped up the ball and ran with it, forcing a fumble. Shaw recovered the fumble and ran 7 yards to the Spartan 16-yard line.

Then junior rush end Grant Wistrom capped the defensive scoring with an interception and 9-yard return for a touchdown in the closing seconds of the third quarter. "I said if I ever scored, I would throw the ball 40 rows up in the stands," Wistrom said with a smile. "But I thought better of it..."

Wistrom's interception was indicative of the way things fell into the hands of Nebraska's defense. Michigan State quarterback Gus Ornstein tried to throw the ball over the 6-foot-5

**Nigea Carter and the Spartans had trouble handling the Huskers' aggressive defensive scheme.**

Michigan State game photos by Jon Waller











Jon Waller

Wistrom, who has remained after practice the last couple of weeks to catch passes with the linebackers. He and Jared Tomich, the other starting rush end, decided to do so on their own, Wistrom said.

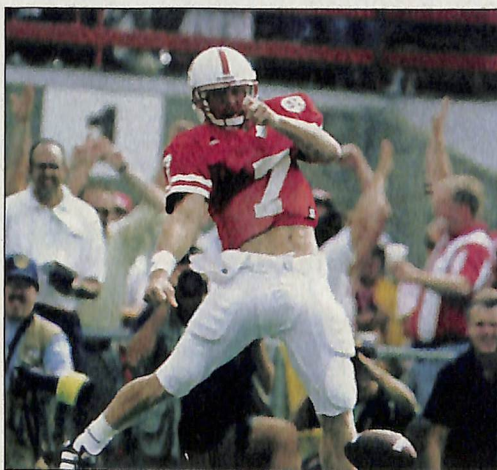
Craig Bohl, who coaches the linebackers, throws the passes, from "about 10 or 15 yards away," Hesse said. Players begin with their backs toward Bohl. They have to turn, react and catch the ball.

Success requires not only good hands but also concentration. Wistrom and Tomich have done well, according to Hesse. If they hadn't, "we would have had to kick them out," he said.

If someone drops a pass, the routine starts over. The drill could continue indefinitely.

Ornstein, a sophomore transfer from Notre Dame, replaced Spartan starter Todd Schultz after the second series. Schultz went to the sideline with a knee sprain, aggravated during the first series.

Nebraska kept the pressure on Michigan State's quarterbacks, sacking them seven times for losses totaling 47 yards. One of those sacks was Wistrom's, though he wasn't sure he even touched Ornstein on the play. "I just breezed by him," Wistrom said. "I think the wind blew him down."



Jon Waller

**It didn't even take a quarter for Scott Frost to get his first touchdown as a Husker when he scored on an 11-yard run.**

to block the punt, according to Fullman. When a block is set up and the punter manages to kick the ball, "the coaches say: 'Just try to get what you can.'" For another, the Cornhuskers weren't at full strength. "There were only 10 men on the field," Fullman said.

"When we were lined up, there was a big gap. I thought: 'Isn't somebody supposed to be there?'"

After catching the punt, Fullman tripped and nearly fell. The return was comparable to a 79-yarder for a

At times, the Cornhusker defense could do no wrong. Minter's first interception came on a Schultz pass that "floated." His second was the result of perfect timing and positioning.

"Right before that play, they tried the same route, but the quarterback got sacked," said Minter. "Then they came right back to it. I saw the same formation, and he (Ornstein) was keying on his man the whole way. So I broke on the ball, pulled it in and went to the end zone."

Fullman's punt return for a touchdown was probably the most remarkable play of the game, for several reasons. For one thing, Nebraska was set up

Jon Waller





touchdown against Kansas State last season. This one was better, he said, "by a little bit."

"But last year's will always stay in my mind because of the hit."

The hit was a block by Mike Rucker that knocked off the helmet of a Wildcat. Split end Brendan Holbein made a key block to help spring Fullman against Michigan State.

That Fullman was even able to return the punt was another element of the drama. A chronic groin problem threatened to sideline the senior cornerback, possibly for the season. "When Mike showed up on crutches about three weeks ago, I thought maybe it was just a momentary thing, that maybe he'd throw them away the next day and be OK," Osborne said. "Then I thought his career might be over."

Fullman wasn't quite that pessimistic about his chances of playing this season. But he was concerned. He had to use the crutches for about a week and a half. "I'll be a little sore tonight," he said.

Nebraska's defense overwhelmed Michigan State, which had opened with a 52-14 victory against Purdue the week before, despite the notable absence of senior weakside linebacker Terrell Farley, the defender most likely to make big plays, and some uncertainty at cornerback.

Farley has been suspended by Osborne, following his arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence. The suspension is open-ended. He'll miss at least one more game, possibly two, and the remainder of the season if he fails to meet certain requirements, according to Osborne.

**Mike Fullman's touchdown on a 62-yard punt return was even more impressive considering Nebraska only had 10 men on the field at the time.**



He has been replaced by senior Ryan Terwilliger.

The concern at cornerback was a result of inexperience and the fact that senior Michael Booker suffered from congestion and "didn't know if he would be able to play," Osborne said.

Inexperience? True freshman Ralph Brown started at the other cornerback, with Mike Brown, another true freshmen, and Jerome Peterson, a redshirted freshman, among the others who played there.

"I didn't expect things to happen this fast," said Ralph Brown, who a year ago was preparing to play a

high school game. "I thank God for the opportunity to play. I didn't know what it would feel like. All those people (in Memorial Stadium), being on national TV . . . it was unexplainable."

Michigan State might feel much the same way when it studies films of the game. Nebraska's defenders seemed to come from all directions. "We like to be a big-play defense," Wistrom said. "That can break another team's spirit." And help your own offense.

"It lifts the offense up," said Minter. "They say: 'Thank you, man, thank you.'" ■

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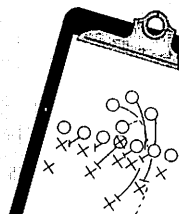
**HUSKERS**



# STATISTICS VS. MICHIGAN ST.

## SEPTEMBER 7, 1996

Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.



### SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	7	20	21	7	— 55
MICHIGAN ST.	0	0	7	7	— 14

### TEAM STATS

	MSU	KU
First Downs	11	18
Rushing	5	12
Passing	6	4
Penalty	0	2
Rushing Attempts	49	46
Yards Gained Rushing	141	215
Yards Lost Rushing	58	31
Net yards rushing	83	184
Net yards passing	163	114
Passes attempted	27	14
Passes completed	14	7
Had intercepted	3	0
Total plays	85	60
Total net yards	246	298
Avg. gain per play	2.9	5
Fumbles-lost	4-1	3-2
Penalties-yards	4-29	2-10
Punts-yards	11-427	6-263
Avg. per punt	38.81	43.83
Possession time	34:28	25:32

### DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Williams	5	6	11	1	0
Hesse	3	6	9	0	0
Foreman	2	5	7	0	0
Rucker	3	2	5	2	0
Peter	2	3	5	1	0
Wistrom	2	3	5	1	1
Minter	2	1	3	0	2
Brown	1	2	3	0	0
Kelsay	1	2	3	1	0
Stokes	1	2	3	0	0
Terwilliger	1	2	3	0	0
Jackson	1	1	2	0	0
List	1	1	2	0	0
McFarlin	1	1	2	0	0
Roberts	1	1	2	0	0
Schuster	1	1	2	0	0

### MICHIGAN STATE

Player	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Reese	3	14	17	0	0
M. Wright	2	6	8	0	0
Austin	2	4	6	0	0
Garland	1	5	6	0	0
Underwood	1	5	6	1	0

### INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

### RUSHING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Green	16	71	4.4	19	1
Frost	10	58	5.8	13	1
Benning	8	35	4.4	11	0
Makovicka	3	19	6.3	9	0
Shuster	4	13	3.3	13	0
Sims	2	5	2.5	3	0
Evans	1	2	2.0	2	0
Turman	1	-3	-3	-3	0
Cheatham	1	-16	-16	-16	0

### MICHIGAN STATE

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Goldborne	17	58	3.4	14	0
Irvin	15	51	3.4	15	1
Crenshaw	2	10	5	10	0

### PASSING NEBRASKA

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Frost	11-5-0	74	1
Turman	2-2-0	40	1

### MICHIGAN STATE

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Omstein	18-11-2	133	1
Irvin	1-1-0	31	0

### RECEIVING NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Vedral	2	20	10	16	0
Holbein	1	35	35	35	1
Cheatham	1	30	30	30	1
Shuster	1	16	16	16	0
Edwards	1	10	10	10	0
Makovicka	1	3	3	3	0

### MICHIGAN STATE

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Carter	3	45	15	31	0
Irvin	3	26	8.7	14	0
Long	2	61	30.5	48	0
Mason	2	25	12.5	17	0
Keub	2	7	3.5	6	1

### FIELD GOALS NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Made	Distance
Brown	2	2	35, 24

### MICHIGAN STATE

Player	Att	Made	Distance
None Attempted			

## 1996 SEASON STATS

(1 GAME)

### RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	1	16	71	71	1
Frost, S.	1	10	58	58	1
Benning, D.	1	8	35	35	0
Makovicka, J.	1	3	19	19	0
Shuster, B.	1	4	13	13	0
Sims, J.	1	2	5	5	0
Evans, D.	1	1	2	2	0
Turman, M.	1	1	-3	-3	0
Cheatham, K.	1	1	-16	-16	0

### PASSING

Name	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frost, S.	1	11-5-0	.455	74	1
Turman, M.	1	2-2-0	1.100	40	1

### RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Vedral, J.	1	2	20	16.7	33.4	2
Holbein, B.	1	1	35	17.9	27.6	2
Cheatham, K.	1	1	30	19.4	24.7	5
Shuster, B.	1	1	16	10.8	13.7	1
Edwards, J.	1	1	10	8.5	9.3	3
Makovicka, J.	1	1	3	8.7	5.2	2

### FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	1	2	2	35

### DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Williams, J.	1	5	6	11	0	1
Hesse, J.	1	3	6	9	0	0
Foreman, J.	1	2	5	7	0	0
Rucker, M.	1	3	2	5	0	2
Peter, J.	1	2	3	5	0	1
Wistrom, G.	1	2	3	5	1	1
Minter, M.	1	2	1	3	2	0
Brown, R.	1	1	2	3	0	0
Kelsay, C.	1	1	2	3	0	1
Stokes, E.	1	1	2	3	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	1	1	2	3	0	0
Jackson, J.	1	1	1	2	0	0
List, G.	1	1	1	2	0	0
McFarlin, O.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Roberts, M.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Shuster, B.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Toline, T.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Ogard, J.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Welther, E.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Wiltz, J.	1	0	2	2	0	0
Booker, M.	1	1	0	1	0	0
Fullman, M.	1	1	0	1	0	0
Legate, B.	1	1	0	1	0	0
Shaw, B.	1	1	0	1	0	0
Warfield, E.	1	1	0	1	0	0
Held, R.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Mackovicka, J.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Ryan, E.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Saltsman, S.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Warren, S.	1	0	1	1	0	0
Wells, J.	1	0	1	1	0	0

### TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	298	246			
Net Rushing Yards	184	83			
Passing Yards	114	163			
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>TOT</b>
NU	7	20	21	7	55
Opponents	0	0	7	7	14

## 1996 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 1-0 (0-0)

Sept. 7	Michigan State	W, 55-14
Sept. 21	@ Arizona State	
Sept. 28	Colorado State	
Oct. 5	@ Kansas State	
Oct. 12	Baylor	
Oct. 19	@ Texas Tech	
Oct. 26	Kansas	
Nov. 2	@ Oklahoma	
Nov. 9	Missouri	
Nov. 16	@ Iowa State	
Nov. 29	Colorado	



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Desktop Lithograph

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Celebrate the Huskers' Back to Back National Championships with this wool blend adjustable black hat. Each hat features a bright embroidered Back to Back design.

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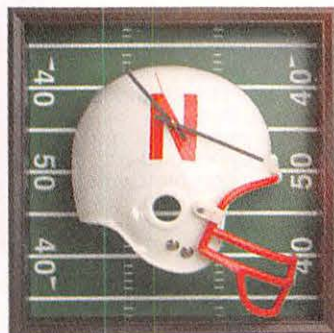


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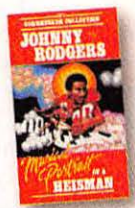
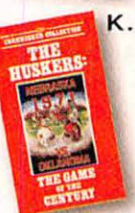
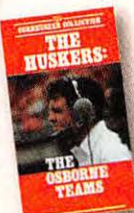
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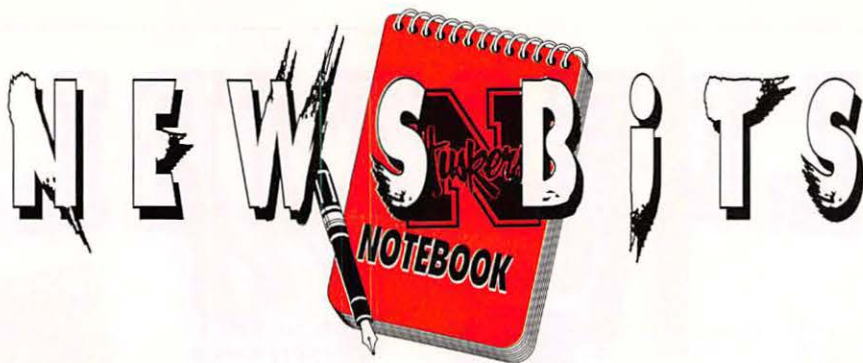


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# PLAYBOYS



## *Taylor, Tomich "throwback" with All-American team during Playboy's 40th Anniversary*

**A**aron Taylor and Jared Tomich appreciated the preseason All-America recognition they received from *Playboy*. "It's first time I've ever been nominated for something like that," Taylor said recently.

But going to Phoenix for a long weekend and a photo session in conjunction with the magazine's 40th anniversary All-America football team ... that was another matter entirely.

"My fiancée wasn't too happy until I told her no girls were going down there," said Tomich.

Taylor said his wife had similar concerns. "I didn't know if there would be playmates or anything like that. I talked to Gary Cole, and he told me it was a family-type deal, that he was bringing his kids."

Cole is responsible for selecting and writing about the members of the team.

"I'm not into things like that. But when he (Cole) said it was going to be a family deal, I talked to my parents and my wife about it," Taylor said. The consensus was that he should go.

Both Cornhuskers were glad they decided to go to Phoenix for the long weekend.

"It's fun to do things like that," said Tomich, who went to Los Angeles for a Bob Hope television special last season, after being

picked to the *Associated Press* All-America team. "You establish friendships with guys you've read about."

Among those guys in Phoenix was Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning.

"We hung out with Manning

the field ..."

Among other things, players went rafting and competed in a golf scramble. Taylor skipped the former in order to participate in the latter. His team for the scramble included TCU place-kicker Michael Reeder.

"We did pretty good."

Taylor, the Huskers' starting center, also got on a mechanical "horse" and did some roping. His rodeo efforts were included in a television special featuring the All-America team and Cole's preseason Top 20.

The players wore throwback uniforms for the team picture.

"It was neat," said Taylor, who was dressed in a turtle-neck sweater with a block "N" on the front. Tomich also wore such a sweater and "old beat-up pants." Authenticity was an obvious concern.

The photograph in the magazine's October issue was the result of a picture-taking session that lasted "a couple of hours," Tomich said. "I don't know how many rolls of film the guy shot."

Nebraska was No. 1 in *Playboy's* Top 20 with Tennessee No. 2. If Cole is right in his predictions, Tomich will be pressuring Manning in the Sugar Bowl game on Jan. 2.

"He's a good guy," Tomich said of Manning, echoing Taylor's opinion.

The Phoenix friendships would have to be set aside that night. ■



© Playboy Magazine

**Aaron Taylor (back row, third from left) and Jared Tomich (fifth row, far left) were named to Playboy's preseason All-American team.**

most of the time," Taylor said. "He was a character. You wouldn't believe the person he is. He's a Heisman candidate, highly-recruited ... you'd think somebody like that would have a big ego. But he was the nicest guy. Everybody got along. All the guys were great."

Tomich, a defensive end at NU, and Manning made mock threats at each other, Taylor said.

"They'd say: 'If I ever see you on



Dick Blomgren has been taking photographs of the Nebraska football team since the mid-1950s. The glossy, black and white prints are 8 inches high by 5 feet long. They are distinctive.

Cornhusker players and coaches appear to be standing in a line at the north end of Memorial Stadium. But sections of the east and west stands also are visible, giving the illusion that the stadium has been opened like a book and pressed flat. Above or below each player and coach is his name, and Blomgren said the process of hand-lettering the names is tedious.

# PICTURE PERFECT

The photographs so familiar to older Nebraska football fans are made with a "panoramic" camera that dates to the turn of the century. It originally was known as a "circuit" camera, Blomgren said. The film is the same size as the finished print: 8 inches by 5 feet.

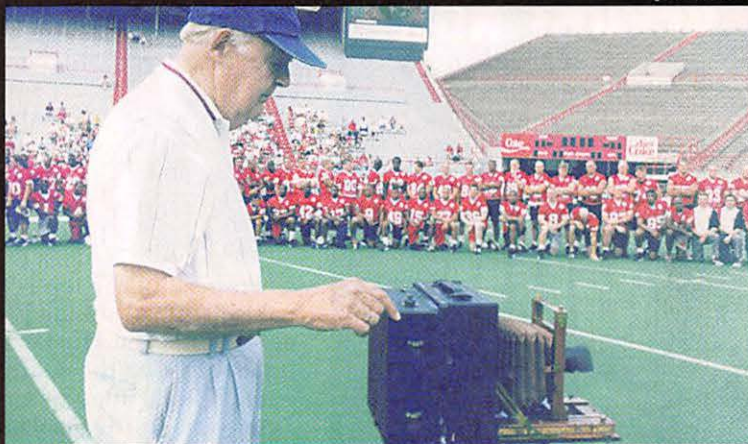
The camera sits on a tripod and pivots. The players and coaches stand in a semi-circle. The rotation takes 10 to 12 seconds, according to Blomgren, sufficient time for someone on the side where the camera begins to run

behind the camera and stand at the other end of the semi-circle.

By doing that, a person could be in a photograph twice. "Years ago, in the 1960s I think, a guy (player) tried it," Blomgren said. "We shot two (pictures) and used the second one."

Although he didn't take it, Blomgren has one of the panoramic photographs of the 1949 Cornhusker football team. They have been taken since the late 1930s, however.

John Waller



er, he said. They were taken even during the early 1950s, when Coach Bill Glassford conducted preseason practices at Curtis, Neb.

The panoramic pictures have become a tradition at Nebraska. "That's why we keep doing it," sports information director Chris Anderson said. "We'll keep doing it until the camera breaks." ■

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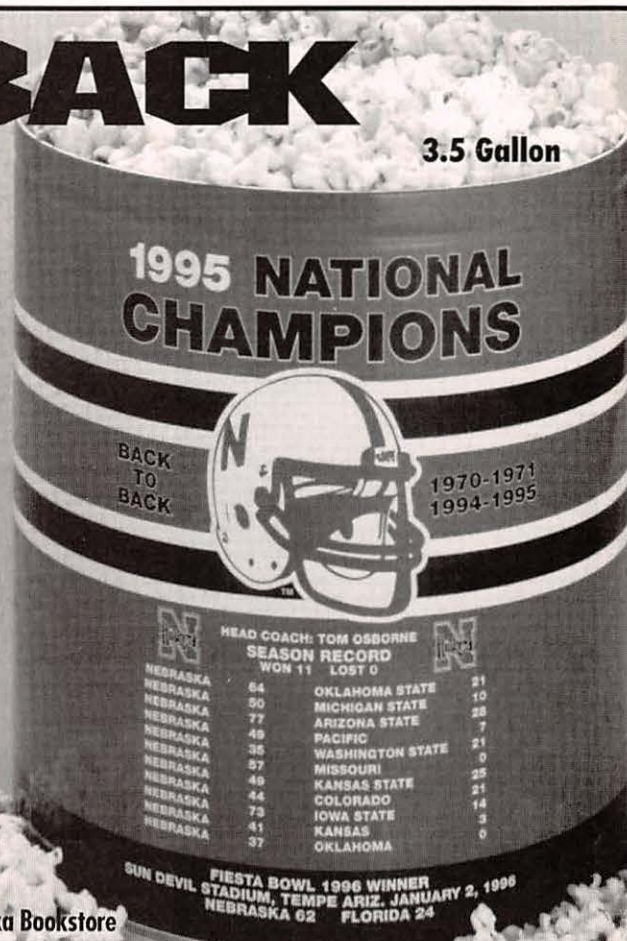


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# Sitting Pretty

*As opposed to last year, the Cornhuskers look good at quarterback with two early commitments*

**W**hat a difference a year makes. Last year the Nebraska Cornhuskers' coaching staff was left scrambling at the last minute for quarterbacks when most of the top run/pass sig-

nal-callers had decided to go elsewhere. The Huskers felt fortunate that the multi-talented Clint Finley of Cuero, Texas, was still available.

Quarterback is a key recruiting position for the Huskers again in 1997, but this time Nebraska isn't left reaching for the leftovers and cast-offs from other teams. In fact, the Cornhuskers are in better position with quarterbacks than any team in the country.

Before September, the Cornhuskers already had commitments from two of the top 10 run/pass quarterbacks in the nation.

Eric Crouch (6-foot, 185 pounds, 4.5 40-yard dash) of Omaha (Millard South) grew up knowing he wanted to be a Nebraska Cornhusker. Living just 40 miles from Lincoln, Crouch knew all about the Husker football legend and always dreamed of playing quarterback for the Big Red.

After committing to Nebraska, his ability should give him that opportunity. Last season, Crouch was virtually unstoppable, running the option for 1,960 yards and 27 touchdowns while throwing for another 785 yards and nine scores.

Nebraska has a history of great athletes under center, and Crouch said he hopes he's the next great Husker option quarterback.

"Getting a chance to play at Nebraska is something that I have always dreamed of," Crouch said. "When you think of guys like Turner Gill, Steve Taylor and of course Tommie Frazier, you realize they are some of the greatest (option quarterbacks) ever to play the game. Nebraska's offense is exactly what I am looking for and Coach (Tom)

Osborne is always making it better, improving the passing game and expanding the role of the fullbacks and wingbacks.

"Going to Nebraska is perfect for me for a number of reasons. I took unofficial visits to Notre Dame and Ohio State but just never felt in my heart that I should go to either of those schools, despite the fact they are great schools. Nebraska is the school for me and I am thankful they offered me a scholarship."

**Bobby Newcombe** (6-0, 185, 4.5) of Albuquerque (Highland), N.M., comes from a part of the country that is not noted for producing prep football greats.

However, every so often a player like Newcombe will come along and attract some attention.

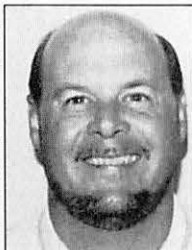
Newcombe, who was born in Sierra Leon, West Africa, is a three-year starter at quarterback and two-year starter at free safety who also drew attention from many schools as an

"athlete." However, after leading the state in rushing with 1,309 yards and 21 touchdowns while passing for another 606 yards and seven scores, Newcombe said he was certain he wanted to be a quarterback.

"The Nebraska coaches told me that I would have a great chance to be a quarterback," the soft-spoken Newcombe said. "Their offense is perfectly-suited for my style of play. It's a great offense and one that will allow me to play my game."

Newcombe saw the Nebraska campus first-hand while participating in the Huskers' summer camp. His MVP showing sold the Husker coaching staff on Newcombe, and in turn sold Newcombe on Nebraska.

"When I was there this past summer, I felt right at home," Newcombe said. "Everything just felt good right from the start and when they offered me a scholarship



**By  
JAMES  
HALE**





it didn't take me very long to make up my mind."

Newcombe turned down offers from Michigan, where they wanted him to play running back, and UCLA, where they were looking at him as an "athlete."

The constant that led Crouch and Newcombe to commit to the Huskers so early was a promise that both would get a shot at playing quarterback, and a promise that Nebraska wouldn't recruit another quarterback.

"I am going to definitely be a quarterback and will get a good shot at playing quarterback," Crouch said. "I knew they were also getting a commitment from Bobby, but I was told that would be it as far as quarterbacks go. If I have to play wide receiver eventually, so be it. But I want it to be only after it is certain I can't start at quarterback."

However, the possibility that both Crouch and Newcombe could wind up at other positions could force the Huskers to at least try to sign another quarterback or, more specifically, a pure passing quarterback to give the future Nebraska offense a change of pace.

Spencer Brinton (6-5, 205, 4.8) of Temecula Valley, Calif., threw for 1,500 yards and 15 touchdowns last season and is more of a pure drop-back type passer. Brinton's family traveled to Ohio State, Nebraska, Iowa, Northwestern and Notre Dame this summer and Brinton has already received offers from California and BYU. Brinton is leaning toward Ohio State, thanks to its pro-style offense.

LaBrone Mitchell (6-3, 205, 4.5) of Marietta, Ga., looks more like a traditional Nebraska quarterback. Mitchell threw for 1,500 yards and nine touchdowns last season while rushing for 526 yards and two more scores. Mitchell said LSU leads Nebraska with Florida State, Clemson and Alabama also in the chase. Jeremy Toles (6-2, 210, 4.7) of Broken Arrow, Okla., is another talented option operator. Toles is a raw passer but a gifted runner on the corner who lists Tennessee, Nebraska, Texas A&M, Kansas State, UCLA and Oklahoma among his early options.

It remains to be seen if the Huskers will actually offer a scholarship to any other quarterback prospect besides Crouch or Newcombe. But rest assured that some of the top quarterbacks in the country will continue to seek the attention of the Nebraska staff. ■



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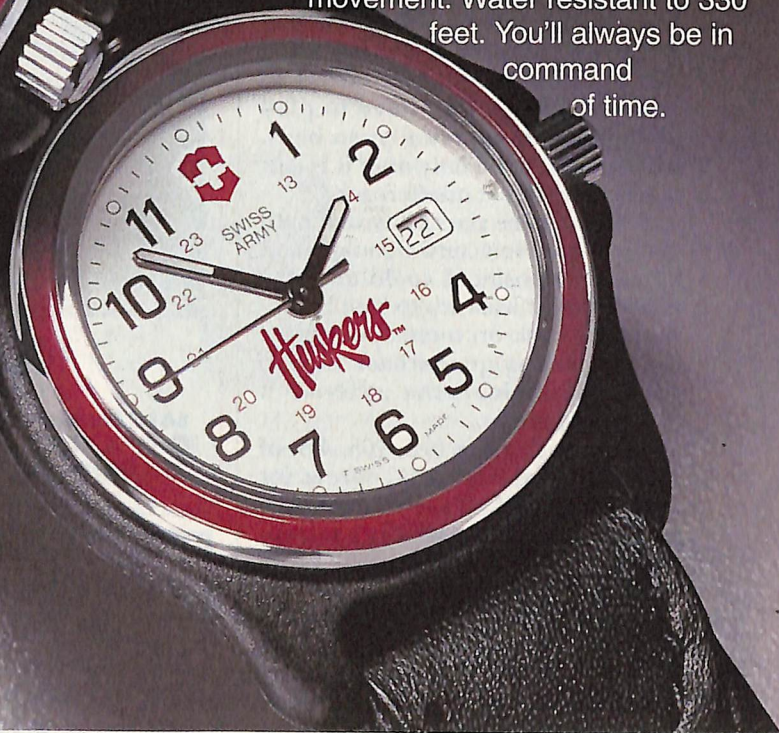
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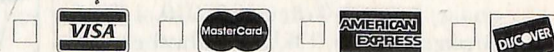
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# Mind Over Matter

**Women's Golf Team Looks To Avoid Third Near-Miss By Focusing On Mental Game**  
• Mike Friend



**Rachelle Tacha's strength is in her power game.**

University of Nebraska

**T**he question doesn't come up as often as it did for Arizona State's Phil Mickelson or Stanford's Tiger Woods, but it comes up often enough. Are you going to be a professional golfer?

Nebraska's Rachelle Tacha muddles over the answer.

"Believe it or not, a lot of people do ask me that," Tacha said in response to questions about her prospects of joining the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour.

"I have thought about it. But right now, it isn't an important thing in my life," Tacha said. "I don't know if I would want to make golf a career.

There are a lot of other things I would like to do with my life."

Right now, along with her academics, the most important thing for Tacha is

helping the NU women's golf team to the 1997 NCAA Tournament in May. Nebraska, in dealing with the graduation losses of Heidi Stark, Michelle Patterson and Molly Mullin, will look to Tacha for leader-

ship, skill and a chance at its first-ever trip to the national championships.

"Rachelle is the type of person who loves the fiery competition and hates to lose," coach Robin Krapfl said. "But she is also a great person. She does an excellent job of getting the other players to relax. She really gets to know them and the way they play. She's just wonderful."

The junior from Manhattan, Kan., was the final Big Eight women's individual champion and only the fourth golfer in Nebraska history to qualify for the NCAA championships. She finished 27th in the national tournament, and her seasonal stroke average of 79.52 was the team's lowest. She was the 1995 Big Eight Co-Newcomer of the Year, and her 3.844 grade-point average in marketing earned her 1995-96 Academic All-Big Eight honors.

Tacha's success at Nebraska should come as no surprise. She was named the Midwest Golfer of the Year as a high school senior and placed in the top four at the Kansas High School Girls Championships for three

consecutive seasons. She also won a title at the Kansas Junior Championships.

As a team, the Huskers missed qualifying for the NCAA Tournament by one stroke last year. It was the second year in a row that the team narrowly missed qualifying. Tacha says Nebraska isn't going to allow a third near-miss.

"One of my personal goals is to help our team get to the NCAA Tournament," she said.

Tacha's strength lies in her power game, Krapfl said. She is long off the tee, and if she needs any work, it would be around the greens. Tacha agrees with Krapfl's assess-

ment.

"I would say that around the greens, my short game needs the most work," Tacha said. "As a team, I think our mental game is important. Things like the mental part of the game can really mess up your scores."

With returning letter-winners Melissa Becker and Maureen Regan, both seniors, and sophomore Gretchen Doerr, a member of the Big Eight Honor Roll, course management and mental golf should be a priority.

"I have no doubt that we are going to match up well with anyone," Krapfl said. "I think we have a tough schedule, but I think we can be competitive." ■

**ALL SPORTS**

## WOMEN'S 1996-97 GOLF SCHEDULE

### Remaining Fall Schedule

Sept. 26-29	North Carolina Tourn., Chapel Hill, N.C.
Oct. 6-8	Preview Tourn., College Station, Texas
Oct. 13-15	Kansas Tournament, Lawrence, Kan.
Oct. 27-30	New Mexico St. Tourn., Las Cruces, N.M.

### Spring Schedule

Feb. 24-25	UCLA Bruin Invitational, Temecula, Calif.
Mar. 6-9	Ben Hogan Invitational, Fripp Island, Fla.
Mar. 23-26	Rainbow Wahine Tourn., Kaneohe, Hawaii
April 7-8	BYU Tournament, St. George, Utah
April 20-22	Big 12 Championships, Lawrence, Kan.
May 8-10	NCAA Regionals, TBA
May 21-24	NCAA Championships, Columbus, Ohio



If you want to be in charge, you had better be able to handle adversity and adapt. Just ask Terry Pettit, head coach of Nebraska's defending NCAA champion volleyball team, about that.

Pettit's coaching resilience was tested before this season began.

"It's partly kind of (like) running across a stream," he said during a news conference on Media Day. "You're jumping from rock to rock, and you're not quite sure where the next rock is. You haven't got time to analyze what just happened on the last one. You've got to find the next rock."

The day before, Pettit learned that senior Jen McFadden would miss her final season because of a back problem. A magnetic resonance imaging test had revealed a herniated disc.

Pettit said he expected McFadden, a middle blocker, to help fill the void created by the losses of Allison Weston, Christy Johnson and Billie Winsett from last season's national champions.

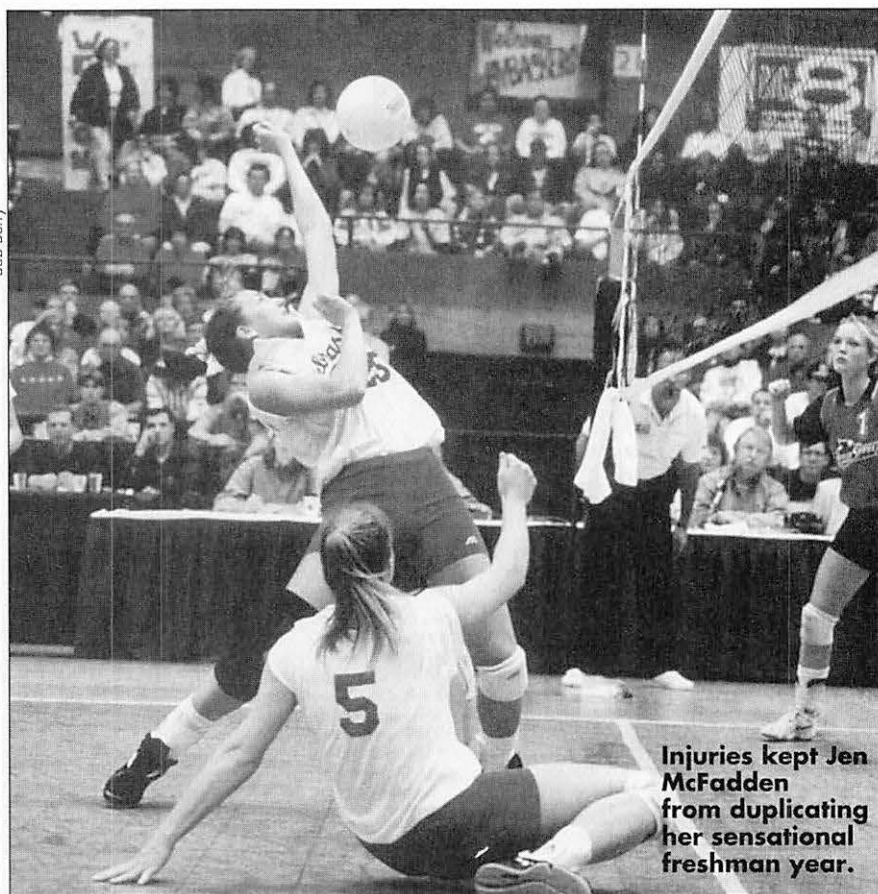
## SIDE OUT

A healthy McFadden would have been a "dominant player," he said. "I had the feeling that if Nebraska

had a great year, she's somebody who might have challenged for Player of the Year honors. Obviously, I'm saddened. Jen is a wonderful player. She deserved the opportunity, I think, to have a tremendous season. But I wouldn't be doing my job as coach if I didn't immediately move on to what the next thing is."

McFadden exhibited remarkable determination by competing for as long as she did. After a strong freshman season, she was sidelined by a knee injury midway through her sophomore season. In March of 1995, four months after undergoing surgery on the knee, she underwent surgery on her back.

McFadden's contribution to the Huskers' post-season success was significant. She played well against both Michigan State and Texas at the NCAA Final Four. "She probably played four or five complete matches last season," said Pettit. "It just so happens, two of them were at the right time. There's no question, I don't think we would have gotten



Injuries kept Jen McFadden from duplicating her sensational freshman year.

# Resilience Tested

**Before the first serve of the season, the Huskers lost three key players**

• **Mike Babcock**

the job done if she hadn't been there.

"I think it took a tremendous amount of faith on her part to rehab all year, on the condition she might be healthy enough to play those matches. But now to be faced with another disc (problem) and the reality that she couldn't have surgery and compete at this point ... it was just pretty overwhelming for her."

The loss of McFadden was preceded by the loss of Katie Jahnke, a highly-regarded freshman recruit from West Bend, Wis., who is sidelined for the season while recovering from knee surgery in June.

Pettit described the 6-foot Jahnke

as "our most-experienced incoming recruit."

Jahnke, a middle blocker, was recruited by the nation's top programs. In addition to Nebraska, she visited Florida, Notre Dame and UCLA. Pettit said he expected her to be able to contribute immediately.

The injury problems didn't end with McFadden. The week before the Huskers' opener in the NACWAA Classic at Normal, Ill., redshirt freshman Denise Koziol, an outside hitter, was lost for the season after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee during an intrasquad scrimmage.



Koziol, from Norfolk, Neb., had prepared well for her first season of competition, Pettit said. "I don't even want to talk about it," the NU coach said, visibly upset.

As the one in charge, however, Pettit had to focus on finding the next rock in the stream.

"I can't think of a season where you don't have challenges like this,"

Pettit said during the media day news conference about the loss of McFadden. Freshman middle blocker Lisa Avery redshirted last season following reconstructive knee surgery. Sophomore outside hitter Stacie Maser was forced to redshirt her first season at Nebraska because of a torn left anterior cruciate ligament.

"With every crisis comes opportunity," Pettit said.

McFadden's misfortune represents a chance for younger players to move up the at middle blocker

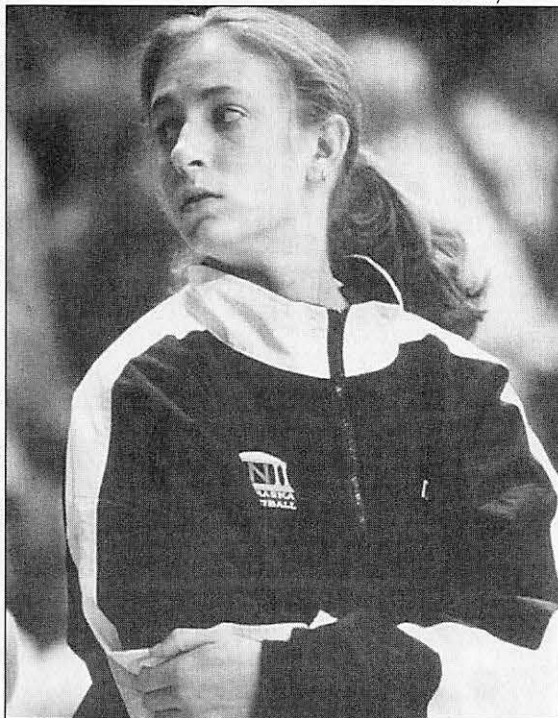
**The bad news kept coming when Denise Koziol was lost for the season after blowing out her knee in a scrimmage.**

position. Pettit's responsibility as coach has been to turn his attention to those other players.

It is not easy being the head coach, particularly of a defending champion, because of higher expectations.

"I suspect, in time, we'll have two very good players at that position," Pettit said. ■

Bob Berry



## SETS & SPIKES

The Huskers opened the season by beating Illinois State, 12-15, 15-11, 15-3, 17-15, in the first round of the NACWAA Classic, establishing a school record for consecutive wins at 32. But the streak was snapped by Hawaii in the NACWAA finals the next night.

Hawaii, the top-ranked team in the country, defeated NU, 15-12, 16-14, 15-9. It was the first time since the 1993 NCAA Tournament that the Huskers had been swept.

The NACWAA Classic was a case of déjà vu for Nebraska. Last season, the Huskers opened with a victory against Penn State and then lost in the finals to Stanford (then the top-ranked team in the country) before going on a 31-match winning streak that resulted in the national title. So NU fans might consider this year's start a good omen.

Pettit said that regular-season losses are not crucial, as long as the team gets to the NCAA Tournament.

"It doesn't matter how many losses you have, as long as you come through it and you're in the tournament," he said. "You want to be good in November and December." ■

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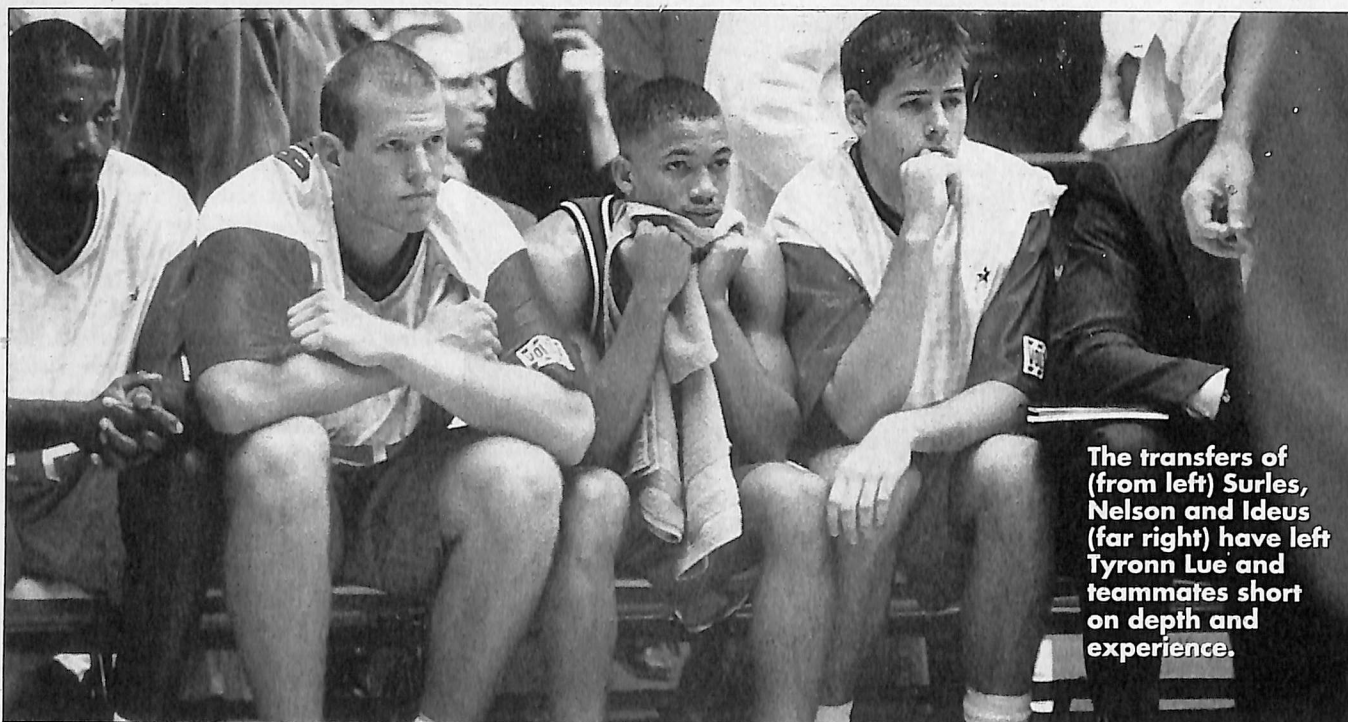
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The transfers of (from left) Surles, Nelson and Ideus (far right) have left Tyronn Lue and teammates short on depth and experience.

Bob Berry

**A** new era in Nebraska basketball began on the first day of the fall semester. It began early, at about 6:30 a.m., in the weight room in the West Stadium. Players on the 1996 team assembled there to begin a daily weightlifting routine, which will continue for a month.

"When you lose the amount of athletes and experience we did, you're concerned," NU head coach Danny Nee said. "But at the same time, I think an era has ended and a new era is beginning."

"How I would characterize that is, looking back over the course of my 10 years, we first brought in Beau Reid and Rich King, and that was their era. Then we went to the Bruce Chubick and Eric Piatkowski era, and then we went to what I would call an Erick Strickland and Jaron Boone era."

Strickland and Boone were among the six players who completed their eligibility last season. The loss of those six, coupled

with the transfer departures of three scholarship players who had eligibility remaining, has left Nee with a young and largely inexperienced team in his 11th season at the helm.

"That's why I say a new era is starting, with players like Tyronn

# LONELY BENCH

## Nee's new era begins with few bodies

Lue and Cookie Belcher," Nee said. Lue, a sophomore who started 34 games at point guard last season, and Belcher, a freshman, are distant cousins, and there's a good chance they'll comprise Nebraska's starting backcourt this season.

"We've always had some kids in the program for three or four years who have been the cornerstone of the team," said Nee. This year, he has just one such player returning from the 1995 squad: senior Mikki Moore.

Bernard Garner, the only other senior, played last season at Nebraska after transferring from Western Nebraska Community College. Venson Hamilton and Andy Markowski, who has been redshirted for the 1996 season, are sophomores. The other three scholarship players on this year's team are newcomers.

Troy Piatkowski, Larry Florence and Alvin Mitchell all sat out last season because of NCAA eligibility requirements, which prevented them

from even practicing with the team in 1995. They are sophomores now.

Piatkowski, the brother of former Cornhusker and current Los Angeles Clipper Eric Piatkowski, has bulked up by 20 pounds over last year. The 6-foot-5 Piatkowski, who will play shooting guard and small forward, is listed in the 1996 Cornhuskers' preseason prospectus at 180 pounds.

Moore, who averaged 9 points and 5.9 rebounds per game last season, also has gained some weight, although "bulkied up" would never be an appropriate description for the slender 6-foot-11 center.

"I like our team, our athleticism," Nee said. "On paper we're young and inexperienced. But the guys coming back, I think, had a unique first year. I think some of them are pretty mentally tough. They know what it's going to take to win, and we've got a good (coaching) staff."

The building process began bright and early, the last Monday in August. Well, it was definitely early. The bright part remains to be seen. ■

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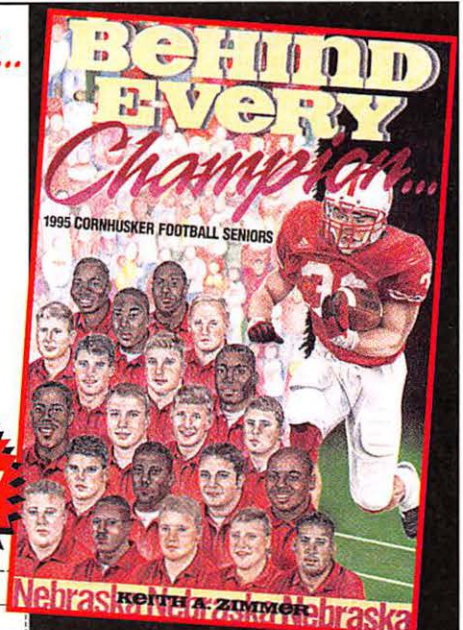
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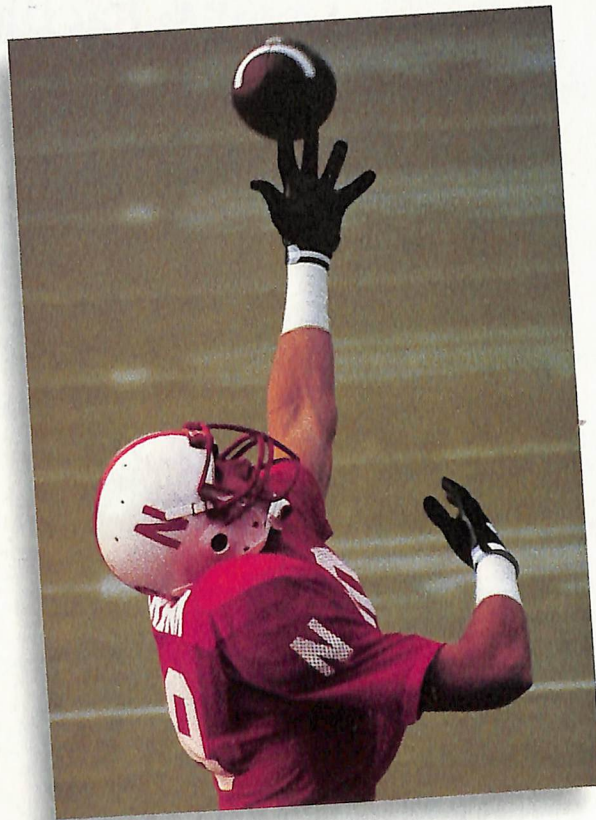
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# BEST OF THE BEST

## the numbers game

### Jerseys 1-10

*Editor's Note: This is the second of an 11-part series featuring our picks as the best players ever to wear each jersey number in the modern era. Next week we'll break down numbers 11 through 20.*

example. Bob Ahlschwede, an offensive guard, was shown as No. 2. Those numbers, as well as numbers 3 through 9, didn't become commonplace at Nebraska until the Tom Osborne era. As a result, the selections in this first installment of *Huskers Illustrated's* "Best of the Best: The Numbers Game" aren't likely to lend themselves to as much debate as those that will follow.

The "best" player to wear each number is arbitrary, of course. Choices have been based, as much as possible, on statistics and honors, such as All-America and all-conference recognition.

Keeping that in mind, here are Nebraska's first 10...

**#1: Lawrence Phillips**

**Also: Dave Klein**

Lawrence Phillips gets the nod.

**E**ric Johnson requested jersey No. 1. "That's what he wants," Nebraska equipment manager Glen Abbott said as he watched the Cornhuskers assemble for a team picture on Photo Day. Two players wore No. 1: Johnson and redshirt freshman quarterback Frankie London.

Several players had to be assigned duplicate numbers. That's not what made Johnson's request for No. 1 unusual. And since Johnson, a sophomore who sat out last season because of NCAA rules, plays defense, he could have the same number as London, an offensive player. No problem there. But Johnson has been moved from defensive back to linebacker, and No. 1 "isn't really a linebacker's number," said Abbott.

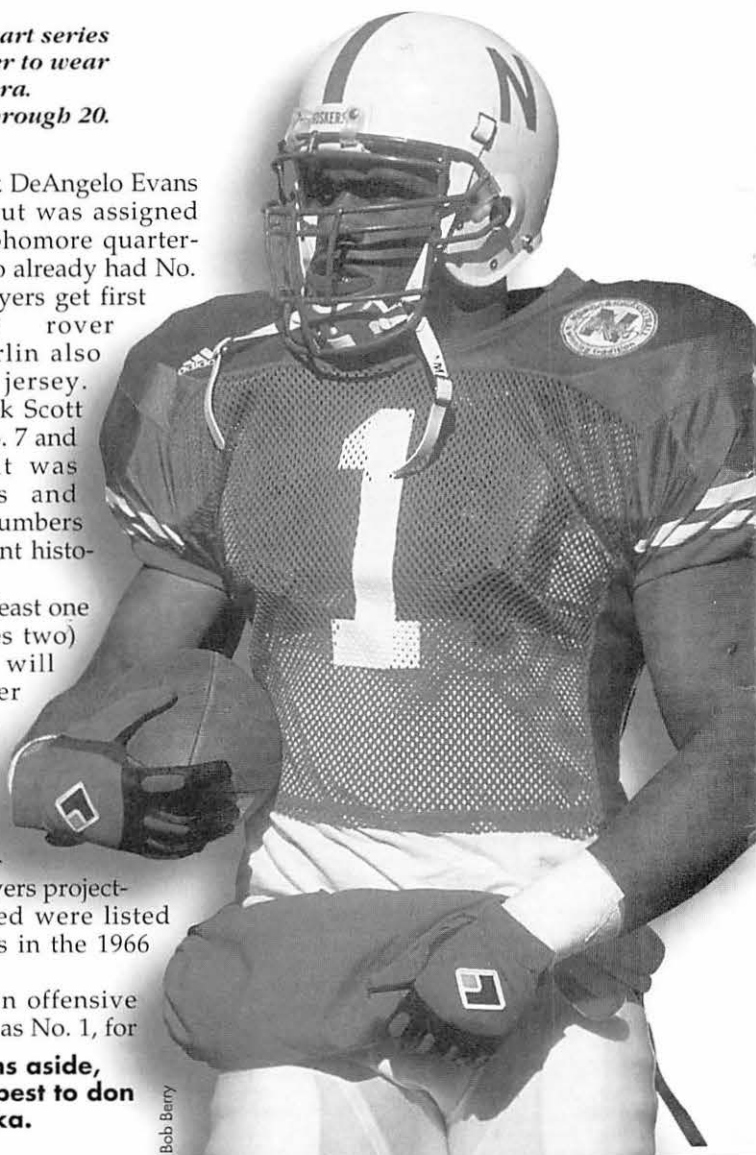
Under NCAA rules, offensive players are limited in the numbers they can wear, depending on the positions they play. Interior linemen, for example, must have numbers from 50 through 79. No such restrictions apply to defensive players, however. So Johnson requested No. 1. "It used to be, no one wanted those numbers (below 10)," Abbott said. "Now, they're the most popular."

Freshman I-back DeAngelo Evans asked for No. 9 but was assigned No. 4 because sophomore quarterback Monte Christo already had No. 9, and veteran players get first choice. Junior rover Octavious McFarlin also wears a No. 4 jersey. Junior quarterback Scott Frost requested No. 7 and got it because it was available. Evans and Frost both have numbers with little significant history at Nebraska.

This season, at least one (and in some cases two) regular players will have each number from 1 through 10. Prior to the mid-1960s, Cornhuskers rarely, if ever, wore jersey numbers below 10. Players projected to be redshirted were listed with low numbers in the 1966 media guide.

Lynn Young, an offensive tackle, was shown as No. 1, for

**Off-field problems aside, Phillips was the best to don No. 1 at Nebraska.**



Bob Berry

**#1: Lawrence Phillips**  
(1993-95)  
**Dale Klein (1984-86)**

**#2: Jeff Krejci**  
(1979-81)  
**Von Sheppard (1985-87)**  
**Jim Burrow (1974-75)**

**#3: Tyrone Legette**  
(1989-91)  
**Toby Wright (1992-93)**  
*Top choice in white (years lettered at Nebraska)*

**#4: Troy Dumas**  
(1991-94)

**#5: Brian Washington**  
(1984-87)



The former Cornhusker I-back has been (and continues to be) plagued by controversy off the field. But his ability as a player is unquestioned. In three seasons at Nebraska, he rushed for 2,777 yards, the fifth-highest career total in school history.

As a sophomore, he was first-team All-Big Eight after rushing for 1,722 yards. That total ranks second on the Cornhuskers' all-time single-season list, behind Mike Rozier's 2,148 yards in 1983. Phillips scored 30 touchdowns during his career to tie for 14th on Nebraska's all-time scoring list.

Although Phillips' claim to No. 1 is difficult to dispute, place-kicker Dale Klein deserves at least an honorable mention among Cornhuskers who have worn jersey No. 1. Klein, a walk-on from Seward, Neb., earned letters in 1984, 1985 and 1986, and he was first-team All-Big Eight in 1985.

Klein ranks 11th on Nebraska's career scoring list, with 196 points. He is fifth all-time in scoring among kickers, having connected on 115-of-118 extra-points and 27-of-41 field goal attempts.

Seven of the field goals came in a 28-20 victory at Missouri in 1985 to put Klein's name in the NCAA record book. He also kicked an extra point that day. Final score: Klein 22, Missouri 20.

## #2: Jeff Krejci

**Also: Von Sheppard, Jim Burrow, Mike McCashland**

Nebraska led the nation in pass defense in 1981, and Jeff Krejci was a significant factor in that success. A walk-on from Schuyler, Neb., Krejci became the Cornhuskers' starting free safety as a senior, replacing Russell Gary, who Krejci had backed up for the two previous seasons.

Krejci led the secondary in tackles with 63, and the team in interceptions, with four, to earn first-team all-conference honors. He also received All-America honorable mention from the *Associated Press*.

Among the other Cornhuskers who have worn No. 2 jerseys are Von Sheppard, Jim Burrow and

## Steve Taylor still holds the school career rushing record for a quarterback with 2,125 yards.

Mike McCashland. Sheppard, a wingback, lettered in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Burrow lettered as a defensive back and punt returner in 1974 and 1975, after transferring from Mississippi. McCashland, a walk-on from Lincoln, Neb., East High, lettered in 1982, 1983 and 1984 as a strong safety.

## #3: Tyrone Legette Also: Toby Wright

Tyrone Legette was an all-conference cornerback for the Cornhuskers in 1991. He also earned letters in 1989, and in 1990, when he started five games including the Citrus Bowl. Legette gets the nod over Toby Wright, who lettered in 1992 and 1993 as a rover back.

Wright, a junior college transfer, was a regular in both seasons. He now plays in the NFL for the St. Louis Rams.

## #4: Troy Dumas

Troy Dumas is a clear-cut choice. He played without redshirting, earning letters in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. He began his career as a free safety but was moved to strongside linebacker in the fifth game of his junior season. He was the starting SAM linebacker on Nebraska's 1994 national championship team and earned first-team all-conference recognition.

## #5: Brian Washington

Brian Washington was a three-year starter and four-year letterman at strong safety from 1984 through 1987. He played as a true freshman and missed only one game during his career at Nebraska. A 10th-round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns, Washington has had a distinguished NFL career.

This season, Washington again is starting in the secondary for the Kansas City Chiefs.

## #6: Keith Jones Also: John Reece

Most Nebraska fans would immediately identify I-back Keith Jones

with this jersey number. The number was symbolic: six points, touchdown. His nickname was "End Zone Jones."

Jones was first-team all-conference in 1986 and 1987. He also lettered in 1984 and 1985. He ranks seventh on the Cornhuskers' career rushing list, with 2,488 yards and 32 touchdowns.

The Omaha Central graduate also caught one touchdown pass and scored on a two-point conversion to give him an even 200 career points, the ninth-best career total at Nebraska.

John Reece, a defensive back, deserves honorable mention.

## #7: Reggie Baul

Reggie Baul was a regular at split end on Nebraska's back-to-back national championship teams, starting eight games and the Orange Bowl as a junior and all but one game as a senior.

He also started one game as a sophomore in 1993, after redshirting in 1992.

Baul was second on the team in receptions and receiving yards last season, catching 17 passes for 304

## Bret Clark helped lead the Black Shirts nationally in total defense in 1984.



#6: Keith Jones  
(1984-87)

John Reece (1989, 1991-93)

#7: Reggie Baul  
(1993-95)

#8: Tyrone Williams  
(1993-95)

Tyrone Byrd (1989-92)

#9: Steve Taylor  
(1985-88)

Russell Gary (1978-80)

#10: Bret Clark  
(1982-84)

Charles Fryar (1986-88)



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yards. He caught one pass in the 1994 Orange Bowl loss to Florida State for 34 yards and a touchdown. He caught one pass in the 1995 Orange Bowl victory against Miami.

## **#8: Tyrone Williams**

### **Also: Tyrone Byrd**

Tyrone Williams, like Baul, contributed significantly to the Cornhuskers' back-to-back national championships as a first-team all-conference cornerback in each season.

He also started as a sophomore in 1993, when he was a co-winner of the Big Eight coaches' award as conference Defensive Newcomer of the Year. He was one of the fastest players in Nebraska history. His ability to cover receivers man-to-man was a key element in the success of the 4-3 base defense.

## **#9: Steve Taylor**

### **Also: Russell Gary**

Steve Taylor earned first-team all-conference honors in 1987, and again in 1988, when he also earned All-America recognition. He was a Cornhusker co-captain as a senior and still holds the school career rushing record for a quarterback, with 2,125 yards (and 32 touchdowns).

He passed for 2,815 yards and 30 touchdowns during his career.

Taylor never redshirted. He came off the bench as a freshman in the fourth quarter of the 1986 Fiesta Bowl game and nearly rallied the Cornhuskers to a victory against Michigan.

Although Taylor is a logical choice in jersey No. 9, Russell Gary also deserves mention. Gary lettered at safety in 1978, 1979 and 1980, and was a first-team all-conference selection as a senior.

## **#10: Bret Clark**

Bret Clark came from Nebraska City, Neb., to earn All-America recognition as a safety in 1984, when Nebraska led the nation in total defense. He also was a co-captain on that team.

A three-year starter, he was first-team all-conference in 1983 and 1984. He intercepted six passes in 1984 and finished with 12 for his career. His eight pass breakups in 1984 and 19 in his career established Cornhusker records. His 101 unassisted career tackles were a record for a Nebraska defensive back until Reggie Cooper (1987-90) broke the record with 117 unassisted tackles. ■



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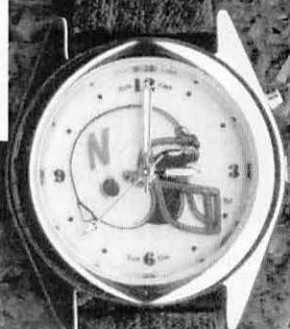


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## OVERVIEW

# Role Reversal

*On a day when the Cornhusker offense seemed sluggish, the Black Shirts definitely did not*

By **MIKE BABCOCK**

**T**om Osborne came to the defense of his offense. "Don't just say our offense isn't good," he said following Nebraska's 55-14, opening-game victory against Michigan State. "They've (the Spartans) got a good defense."

Despite the lopsided score, Nebraska's offensive numbers were modest, at least by recent NU standards. The Cornhuskers finished with 298 yards, including 184 rushing. The totals were the lowest since 1994, when Nebraska was limited to 262 yards by Kansas State and 136 rushing yards by Oklahoma.

The Cornhuskers, who have led the nation in rushing the last two seasons, didn't produce sustained drives. They didn't break many long runs, and no one rushed for as many as 100 yards.

I-back Ahman Green was the game's leading rusher, with 71 yards on 16 carries.

"Offensively, we just didn't gel," said senior guard and co-captain Chris Dishman. "We didn't click today like we should have. Some days you're on, and some days you're not." This was the latter.

Osborne was more analytical, and a little less critical, of the offense. Nebraska's offensive production was

limited, in part, because of "not being on the field too much," he said. "Plus, we were going against a good defense. I thought the strongest part of their (the Spartans') team was defense."

The Cornhuskers ran only 60 plays against Michigan State, the fewest in a game since 1993, when they had 59 offensive plays (and 179 total yards) in a 21-7 victory against Oklahoma. A sub-zero windchill contributed to Nebraska's gas-line freeze that afternoon at Memorial Stadium.

The weather wasn't a factor this time. But, ironically, the Cornhusker defense was. It was so opportunistic, the offense spent more time on the sideline than usual. "Every time we score on defense, we just go back on defense. And that takes you out of an offensive series," Osborne said.

Nebraska's defense took the offense "out of about four series," he said. "I wasn't totally pleased with the offense today. But I thought we did OK. We didn't play bad offensively. We hope to get better. As I said before the season started, it will take time to get the offense together. But it will be good."

The Cornhusker offense has fewer returning starters than does the defense. And two of those starters, both first-team all-conference selec-

tions last season, are at different positions in the line. Dishman has moved from tackle to guard. Aaron Taylor has moved from guard to center. Plus, the offense has a new quarterback in junior Scott Frost, who sat out last season after transferring from Stanford.

Frost rushed 10 times for 58 yards and completed 5-of-11 passes for 74 yards. He scored the game's first touchdown on an 11-yard run and teamed with Brendan Holbein on a 35-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter. "I think Scott played very well," said Osborne. "For a first ball game, I couldn't be more pleased. I didn't see any real big flaws in what he did. He's going to be a fine player."

"We'll move the ball better as time goes on and get the ball in the air a little bit more. I think probably four or five times in the first half, we had pass plays called but he had the option to run and he took it. We're going to use his abilities, and he's got the ability to run with the football. Scott could play I-back for a lot of people, so if they (opposing defenses) don't stop the run, we're going to take it."

**Jon Hesse and the Black Shirts looked as good as advertised against Michigan State.**

Jon Waller



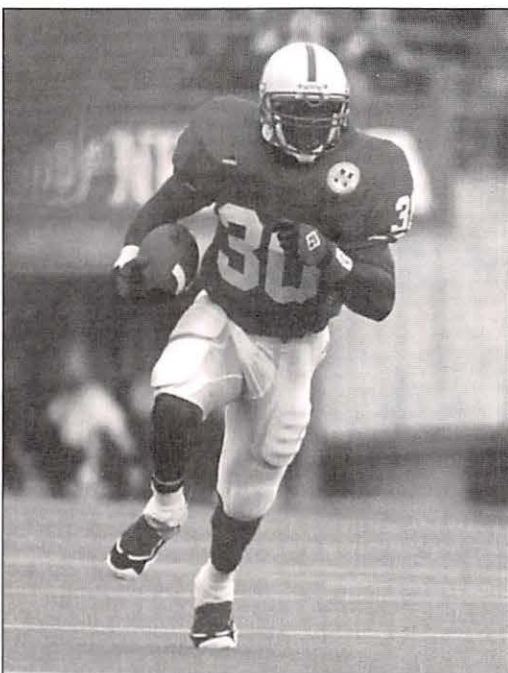


**Ahman Green led the Huskers' "modest" rushing attack with 71 yards.**

Nebraska scored 20 points in the second quarter to take a 27-0 halftime lead and control of the game, which meant there wasn't any need to open up the offense. "There were some things we didn't even show, things that would have been effective in the second half that we didn't use," Osborne said.

The Cornhuskers rushed for 151 (of their 189) yards during the first half.

"There's no sense in taking chances when you have a defense and special teams playing like that," said Frost. "I think Coach Osborne kept the play-calling conservative, and I think that's for a reason. I'm a new quarterback, coming into a new system. I think it went pretty well. I executed everything well, but we need to improve. I felt in the flow of the game from the first snap on. With the fans and everything, you get really excited, and sometimes you get almost too emotional. But



that didn't seem to happen." Jon Waller

Frost seemed composed, Osborne said. "He wasn't excitable. He understood perfectly what we were trying to do on the sideline. I couldn't quarrel with more than one or two things he did today."

Nebraska's best drive of the after-

noon began at its own 20-yard line with 3:16 remaining in the first quarter. The Cornhuskers ran 14 plays, picking up four first downs and reaching the Michigan State 17-yard line before stalling. After Frost's pass on third-and-5 fell incomplete, Kris Brown kicked the first of his two field goals, a 35-yarder. (His second was from 24 yards, just before halftime.)

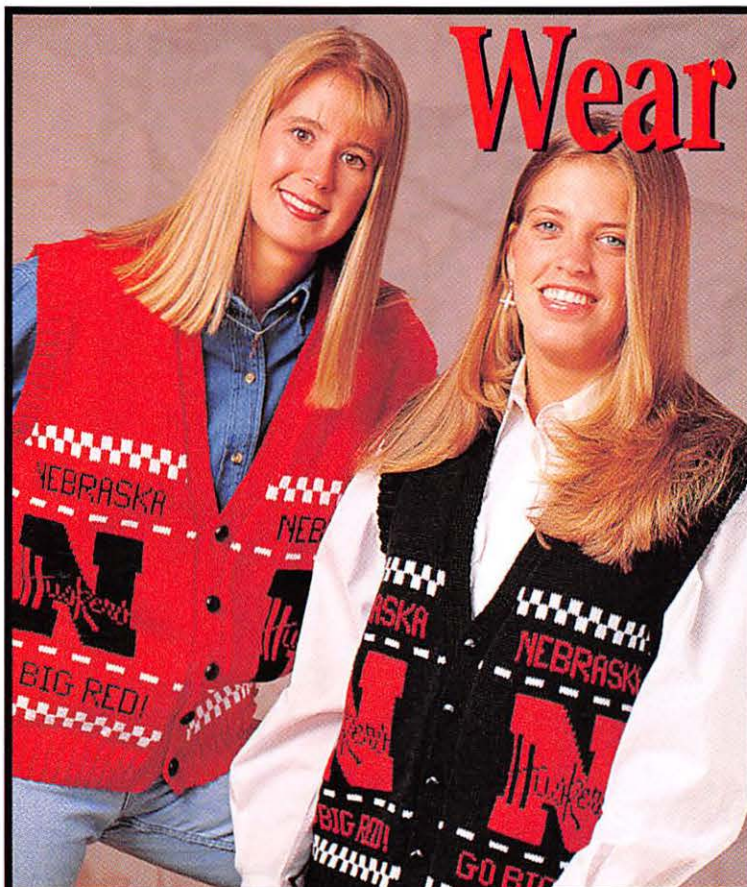
Michigan State had a nine-minute advantage in time of possession and ran 25 more plays. Yet the final score was almost identical to the one of a year ago, when Nebraska won 50-10 at East Lansing.

Last year, "we didn't just run the ball up and down the field," said Osborne.

The Cornhuskers finished with 666 total yards, however, and that's what Nebraska fans have come to expect.

"It's kind of like last year," Dishman said. But in reverse.

A year ago, "we came out and showed that offensively we were ready to play, and the defense was so-so. That's kind of how it was this year, (except that) the defense took over the role." ■



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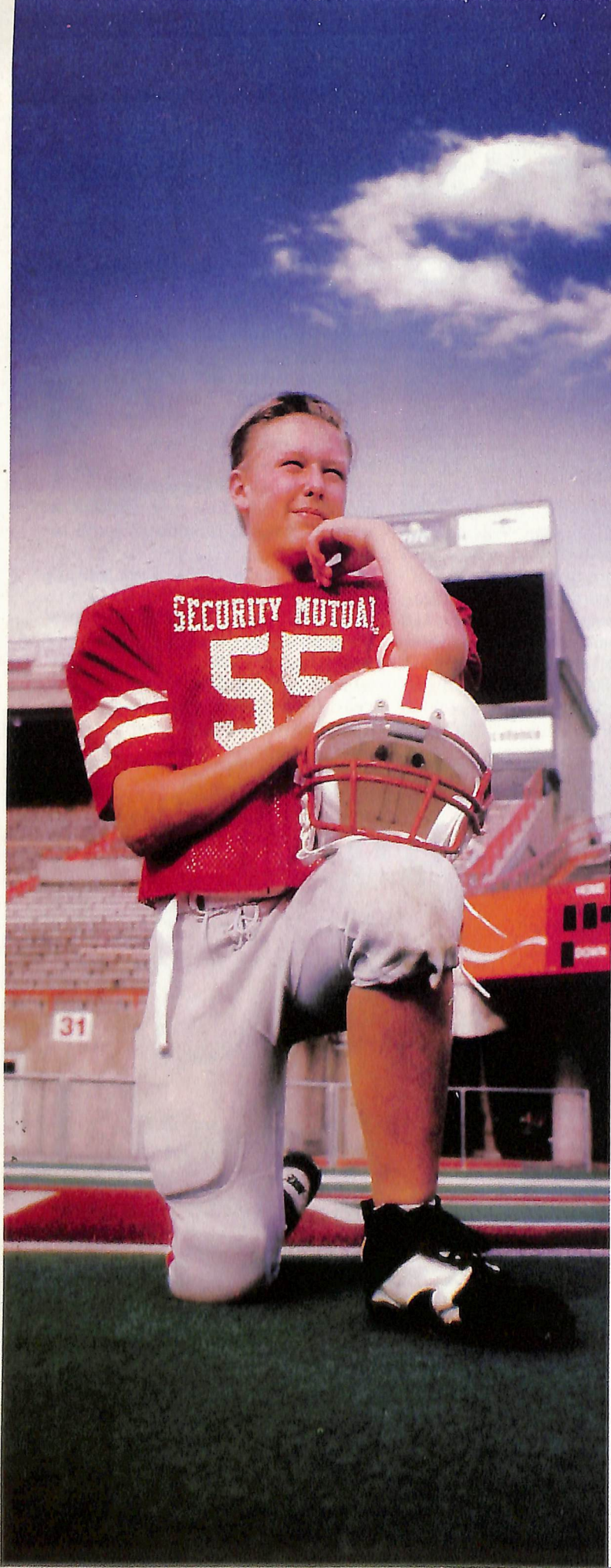
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A color team picture with a printed heading stating the year and the record of each team, is also available for each championship team. Pictures were taken prior to the start of the season in full uniform. Cost of both the football team photo and volleyball team photo is \$10 each.

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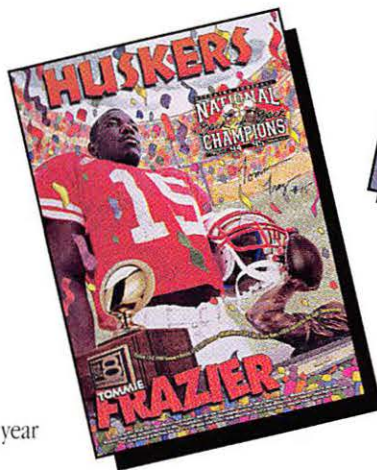
Authentic autographed balls contain signatures of the 1995 national championship volleyball team (\$50) and the 1995 national championship football team (\$100). Both balls are pre-printed with autographs of every team member and contain the official University championship logo.



## HuskerVision Videos

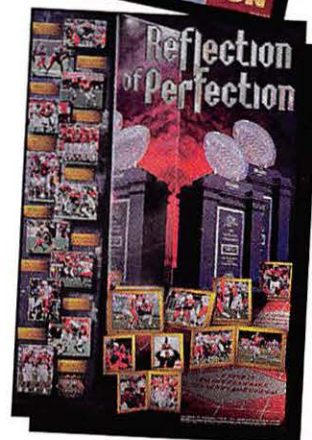
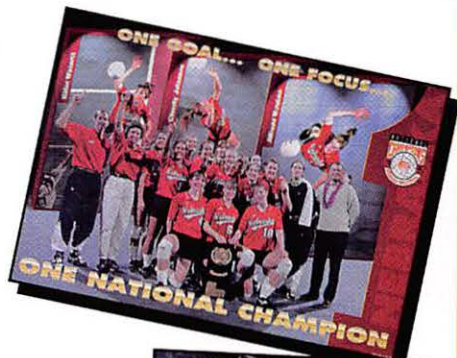
Videos highlighting the Nebraska volleyball and football national championship seasons, as well as the bowl trip again are available as produced by HuskerVision. This is the only video that gets you into the locker room for pre and

postgame speeches. Last year's season highlight tape and national championship videos for football are also available. All videos cost \$20 each.



## National Championship & Tommie Frazier Posters:

National championship posters were produced commemorating both the football and volleyball championship seasons. The official championship poster produced by the Husker Athletic Department, is the only one featuring game action photos of the Husker stars. The 1995 national championship poster costs \$10 and one free 1994 national championship poster will be mailed at no charge with every poster order. You can also obtain an original Tommie Frazier poster commemorating the former outstanding Husker quarterback and 1995 senior. The Tommie Frazier and championship volleyball poster cost \$10 each.



## Stickers & Pins

Car window stickers and stickers for notebooks and non-weathered materials are available for each championship team. The logo commemorating each championship season is also available as a collar/hat pin.

Approximate size of both stickers is 5" x 3 1/2", while the pins are approximately 1" x 1". Stickers are \$1 each, pins are \$5.

To order any of these or other Authentic Nebraska Athletic Department Products, call:

# 1-800-243-8515



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41401-40-NE	Replica Mini Husker Helmet	24.95		
27802-40-NE	Mini Husker Football Helmet Lamp	49.95		

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